

Hafa Adai!

Phan question DOC incarceration; seeks judge's help. PAGE 2
Talks start to renew quarantine facilities' contracts. PAGE 3

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 114

www.saipantribune.com

WEDNESDAY JUNE 10, 2020

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DUE TO NON-PAYMENT OF \$6.9M COURT JUDGMENT

Seizure of IPI's money OK'd

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» **Contractor wants to include 2 title companies**

A contractor who obtained a writ of execution from the federal court that directs the U.S. Marshal Service to seize at least \$6.9 million of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's money in four banks on Saipan asked the court yesterday to also seize IPI's money from two other institutions.

See SEIZURE on Page 4

2 more test positive

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two more persons have been added to the CNMI's count of COVID-19 infections, raising the CNMI's total to 30. It was not immediately known if the new positive cases were the result of the mass testing at the airport or arriving passengers that are currently at the

See TEST on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 8pm, June 9, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	179	1	180
Recovered	163	0	163
Active	11	1	12
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	7,906		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	28	2	30
Recovered	19	0	19
Active	7	2	9
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested**	7,241		

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

**Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

As of 5pm, there were no updates on the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s website on how many people have been tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota; the total remains the same.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

House panel probes COVID-19 overtime, contracts

By **IVA MAURIN**
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Responding to information sent from within the Torres administration, the Legislature has initiated an inquiry into awarded contracts, newly-hired employees, and government hazardous and overtime payments related to the CNMI government's COVID-19 emergency and response. See HOUSE on Page 4

Rep. Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan) shows copies of the letters of request sent to Patrick Guerrero, the Governor's Authorized Representative, in relation to the inquiry being initiated by the House Special Committee on Federal Assistance and Disaster Related Funding regarding awarded contracts, newly-hired employees, and government hazardous and overtime payments related to the COVID-19 emergency and response operations.

IVA MAURIN

ON CCC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMPLAINT VS IPI

Where did all the money go?

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan)

said yesterday that Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Charlie Atalig's complaint against



Sablan

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC for allegedly failing to contribute \$40 million in Community Benefit Fund money in 2018 and 2019 only affirms what they have known for some time now—that IPI has indeed violated the Casino License Agreement.

Sablan said Atalig's complaint also

See WHERE on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

It's a dirty job but someone's got to do it and Waki's Carpet Cleaning will do it for you.

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NATION

George Floyd, whose death has inspired a reckoning over racial injustice, will be buried in Houston.

PAGE 12



LIFE & STYLE

American protesters mourning the death of George Floyd have found an ally: K-pop fans.

PAGE 15



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Local

Phan questions DOC incarceration; seeks judge's help

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A businessman who is currently serving an eight-month prison term for fraud at the Department of Corrections prison in Susupe has asked the help of U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona to resolve some issues that he has raised about his incarceration.

In a letter dated April 30, 2020, David Trung Quoc Phan said he's already served at least 161 days of his sentence at the DOC prison in Susupe when he should be serving his sentence at a federal prison facility in the U.S. mainland.

In his letter to Manglona and two letters to Alfred Celis of the U.S. Marshals Service, which were filed in federal court Monday, Phan said the Federal Bureau of Prisons has let him serve his sentence at DOC without a good reason and with not enough information given him. He said DOC offers no program of any kind to educate or correct inmates to re-introduce the prisoners back to society,

and that only a selected few gets "assignments" as work.

Phan said there are a number of federal inmates currently serving at DOC, whose concerns are "legitimate, reasonable, relevant, and vital" but have not been addressed within reasonable time.

He asked Manglona to help him require Celis of the U.S. Marshals Service to respond to his letters and address his concerns.

In his letter to Celis dated Feb. 24, 2020, Phan said he believes he is entitled to "good behavior" privileges afforded to all federal prisoners in the U.S. mainland.

Phan said that he met with a DOC officer last Feb. 12, who informed him that DOC has no memorandum of understanding with the Federal Bureau of Prisons on extending federal privileges to federal inmates incarcerated at DOC. Upon his lawyer's advice, he wrote to Celis for clarification of the privileges. Last April 22, Phan again wrote to Celis to follow up on his concerns.

Phan also disclosed that his mother passed away last March 16 and his family is still waiting for the easing of restrictions to plan and have a memorial service for her. "I hope and I wish I could be there to pay my respect to my mother," he told Celis in the letter.

In June 2019, the U.S. Court

of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed the conviction of Phan over his role in a scheme to bring Bangladeshi men to Saipan on promises of jobs and green cards in exchange for cash. The Ninth Circuit judges said the evidence a trial supported a permissible inference of fraudulent intent.

In October 2017, a federal

jury convicted Phan of two counts of mail fraud, three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting, and one count of fraud and misuse of visas and permits.

In March 2018, he was sentenced to eight months in prison. Phan appealed his conviction and sentence to the Ninth Circuit, asking it to reverse his

conviction, arguing that the evidence was insufficient to show fraudulent intent.

Phan's co-defendant, Muksedur Rahman, was also convicted and sentenced to 48 months in prison.

The third defendant, Rafiqul Islam, was also convicted and sentenced to 18 months in prison.

Judge: No evidence of ineffective counsel

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio is not convinced by the allegations of a convicted child molester that his lawyers—both at the trial and appellate levels—gave him ineffective legal assistance.

In an order on Monday, Kim-Tenorio denied a petition for a writ of habeas corpus filed by Alfredo E. Reyes, who is currently serving a 30-year prison sentence at the Department of Corrections. Writ of habeas corpus refers to a court order to a prison warden

or an institution holding someone in custody to deliver the imprisoned individual to the court issuing the order.

Kim-Tenorio said Reyes provides no facts to support his allegations, except to indirectly complain that his criminal matter did not result in his favor. In fact, the judge said, Reyes' petition is severely bereft of information regarding ineffective assistance of counsel, or IAC. As such, Kim-Tenorio said, she finds it illogical to arrive at any other conclusion other than to deny Reyes' petition.

Last April, the CNMI Supreme Court denied Reyes' petition for a rehearing on his second appeal that seeks to reverse the 30-year prison sentence imposed on him by Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

The high court justices said that Reyes has not sufficiently overcome the demanding standard in granting rehearing: he has failed to propose how they have "overlooked or misapprehended" a point of law or fact.

According to court records, Reyes sexually abused a then-16-year-old girl at Laulau Beach in May 2009, at Coral Ocean Point beach in Septem-

ber 2009, and in the jungle area near Hawaiian Rock Co. in December 2009. In 2013, a jury found Reyes guilty of three counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree. Camacho, who presided over the trial, also found the defendant guilty of three counts of assault and battery.

In 2014, Camacho sentenced him to the maximum 30 years of imprisonment without the possibility of parole, probation, early release, work or weekend release. Reyes appealed, asking the Supreme Court to reverse his conviction and sentence.

In 2016, the Supreme Court affirmed the conviction, saying there was ample evidence supporting the conviction. But the high court vacated the sentence and remanded the matter to Camacho for resentencing. In 2017, Camacho resentenced Reyes to the same maximum 30-year imprisonment, saying he did so, so that Reyes will be unable to hurt anyone for the next 30 years. The judge cited Reyes' serious prior convictions that includes accessory to murder.

Reyes appealed again to the Supreme Court, arguing that Camacho failed to individual-

ize his sentence. But last April the high court affirmed the 30-year sentence.

In their decision, the justices conceded that they found that Camacho procedurally erred by impermissibly using an element of a crime as an aggravating factor; however they did not find plain error because Camacho "relied on a number of other aggravating factors."

Seeking release from prison, Reyes also filed the petition for a writ of habeas corpus against Department of Corrections Commissioner Wally F. Villagomez.

In denying the petition Monday, Kim-Tenorio said a convicted person bears a burden and must present evidence of unlawful imprisonment.

Here, Kim-Tenorio said, Reyes was convicted by a jury for crimes that are intolerable to a society and, therefore, has the burden to sufficiently plead and prove his grounds for relief.

The judge said merely making vague allegations of inefficient assistance of counsel without an iota of actual examples or evidence will not suffice for a serious inquiry into the legality of Reyes' imprisonment.

Reyes alleges that his trial attorney in his original crimi-

See **JUDGE** on Page 4

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Talks start to renew quarantine facilities' contracts

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Negotiations for the renewal of use of Kanoa Resort and Pacific Islands Club Saipan as isolation and quarantine facilities are ongoing this week, according to governor's authorized representative Patrick Guerrero, as the contracts will expire by the end of the month.

In addition, Guerrero said the question of whether or not the rule on mandatory quarantine will stay the same or changed in the next few days will determine the need for quarantine sites.

PIC, with its 308 rooms, serves as a quarantine facility for all arriving passengers in the CNMI. Currently, there are almost 200 people quarantined at the site, according to COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez.

"PIC changes weekly, but right now we're looking at 179 at PIC. As the flight comes in, we build the numbers, and then in five days, with the test results being administered and coming out negative, releases are being made," Villagomez said.

At his radio news briefing, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that they are talking about the right approach to take with PIC, whether to extend the contract or not, so that the hotel can start preparations for accepting and receiving tourists, in time for the projected reopening of the CNMI on July 15.

The Kanoa Resort, on the other hand, the governor said, "would not be open to any tourists, because that is our Alternative Care Site. ...Kanoa will continue to save lives here in the CNMI."

The Mariana Resort & Spa remains as a backup quarantine site. "Since it's government-owned, it's much easier to be able to accommodate," Villagomez said. "The main building, the resort site [has a capacity of] less than 100 because of some conditions. On the cottages site, that's a family setting, that can accommodate a larger group of people. We're ready. The resort is ready, along with the Department of Public Lands working with us, making sure that those needs are standing by."

The Mariana Resort is not being used at the moment, though. According to Villagomez, "the governor's direction is very mindful in the management of finance and in making sure that we don't have duplication of sites."

Villagomez noted that there are logistical issues related to its use as a quarantine facility, and with PIC in use right now, the task force does not want to burden resources, in terms of manpower, among others.

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SEIZURE

From Page 1

In its second application for a writ of execution, Pacific Rim Land Development LLC, through counsel Colin M. Thompson, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI that IPI maintains cash accounts in the CNMI at title companies, including Security Title Inc. and Pacific American Title Inc. and asked the court to issue a second writ of execution to transfer money owned or controlled by IPI from Security Title Inc. and Pacific American Title Inc.

Thompson asked the court to hold IPI's money in the court's registry or account until after hearing on exemptions, if any.

The lawyer requested the court to set a hearing on the return of the writ and to provide IPI with the opportunity to advance any applicable exemptions.

Thompson said IPI has not posted a bond and has not obtained an order staying or suspending execution of the \$6.9-million judgment.

He said the automatic stay expired last May 27 and accordingly, Pacific Rim requests that the writs of execution take effect and be served by the U.S. Marshal today, June 10.



Thompson



Manglona



Kennedy

The lawyer said the judgment remains unsatisfied in its entirety as IPI has not paid any sum.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Pacific Rim's first application for writ of execution last Monday, deeming the application to have met the requirements of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Commonwealth statute.

Manglona ordered a writ of execution on the full amount of \$6,909,333 on bank accounts of IPI identified in Pacific Rim's application for the writ. She ordered that IPI be given a notice of its rights.

Following Manglona's order, District Court clerk Heather Kennedy issued Monday the writ of execution directing the U.S. Marshal to seize IPI's money not exceeding \$6.9 million from the First Hawaiian Bank,

City Trust Bank, Bank of Saipan, and Bank of Guam, and to deposit the seized money into the court's registry or account where it will remain until IPI has had an opportunity for an exemptions hearing.

Last April 27, Manglona entered a judgment in favor of Pacific Rim in the amount of \$5.65 million against IPI for breach of promissory note. She later amended the judgment to incorporate pre-judgment interest and attorneys' fees. The clerk then entered an amended judgment in the amount of \$6.9 million plus post-judgment interest.

IPI appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit to reverse Manglona's April 27 judgment for IPI to pay Pacific Rim \$6.9 million, including the principal amount of \$5.65 million for breach of the promissory note.

TEST

From Page 1

quarantine site at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

This was based on a statement on the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Facebook page; it said that more details will be made available soon in the official press release. Of these 30 confirmed cases, seven were identified through testing at the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Quarantine Facility.

The CNMI has been seeing an increase in its number of positive coronavirus infections since two weeks ago, when Gov. Ralph DLG Torres eased the restrictions on businesses and curfew last May 26 but Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña said that that's to be expected because the CNMI is testing more people and because of its effective surveillance. This means the number of cases will

eventually go up, she added.

The CNMI has had a total of 60,000 test kits and the mass testing at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport continues, so there're no questions as to why there has been many cases of individuals who are asymptomatic popping up, she said. This is on top of the CNMI having an isolation facility for people who have contracted COVID-19 and persons under investigation, plus a quarantine facility for arriving passengers.

Muña added that there is no correlation between easing of restrictions and having more testing capabilities that are available.

Muña pointed out that the mass testing is primarily intended for surveillance and CHCC is not using it for diagnostic, which means the Commonwealth Health Center is not chiefly involved, but once you identify individuals who are asymptomatic and symptomatic, the number of cases will go up.

"It's about containment. You have

better chances of containing it by having that surveillance available," said Muña.

Ideally, the mass testing—referred to by the CNMI government as community-based testing—is intended to identify individuals who are asymptomatic, and to save their lives by catching the infection and then containing them before they exhibit actual symptoms. Individuals who are asymptomatic show no symptoms of COVID-19.

Muña stated that because symptoms are likely to show up on the fifth day of an infection, this is why inbound passengers get tested on their fifth day of arrival and not on the day of their arrival. Additionally, there's no limit for an individual to get tested for COVID-19.

To date, the CNMI has a total of 28 confirmed cases, with 19 recoveries, two deaths, and seven active cases.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

HOUSE

From Page 1

The House Special Committee on Federal Assistance and Disaster Related Funding has asked Patrick Guerrero, the Governor's Authorized Representative, to furnish them with documents that include a complete list of all CNMI government employees receiving overtime payment related to COVID-19 operations.

The committee also requested documents related to COVID-19 emergency contracts awarded to the Asia Pacific Hotels, which operates the Kanoa Resort; Pacific Oriental Inc.; Interpacific Resort Corp.; Medpharm Group of Companies; Five Star Builders; Island Image & Motion; Helios Energy Group; and Surf Rider Resort Hotel.

Rep. Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan), who chairs the committee, said in an interview that "there is progress" in their request, and that Guerrero has informed his office that the documents should be in by the end of the week. "The first step with the committee is to gather the information that other representatives have issues with, and then we'll go over it. If there are some discrepancies that need to be brought up, we call in the agencies involved, and have them put on record to explain to the people of the CNMI as to why this is going on," he added.

Yumul also noted that they have learned from the "mistakes" from Super Typhoon Yutu and that they do not want such mistakes to happen again. "The legislative body has given so much resources to the administration, from borrowing funds and using some of the Casino License Fee.

We've given everything, and now we're basically asking what have they done with it, and we're making sure they're following the mandate of the people, that they're not going beyond and spending what there needs to be spent on," he added.

Yumul also disclosed that they are conducting this inquiry due to information sent to their committee from staff within the administration. "The staff within the administration is sending information to us as to why is this going on. It's not the Legislature looking around, it's actually complaints that were sent to us."

"We don't actually look for it," Yumul added. "But you'd be amazed at what information comes here and it's within our own government body. We take it upon ourselves to really look into it. That's our job, we owe it to the people."

Pacific Rim, which IPI had contracted to build IPI's resort in Garapan, is suing IPI and five unnamed alleged co-conspirators, saying it has completed the agreed-upon construction work yet remains unpaid.

IPI counsel Michael Dotts said denying stay pending appeal will not just force IPI to close its doors, but it will also leave 1,066 people on Saipan jobless.

According to court records, Pacific

Rim and IPI entered into a construction contract on Feb. 13, 2018 for Pacific Rim to build a hotel-casino complex in Garapan. Pacific Rim eventually stopped because IPI did not pay it the amounts owed under the contract.

IPI recently filed counterclaims against Pacific Rim for promissory fraud, fraud in the inducement as to the promissory note, violation of Consumer Protection Act, and breach of contract.

WHERE

From Page 1

affirms that the Commonwealth is unable to account for more than \$30 million in Community Benefit Fund money that IPI should have distributed for public purposes.

"The CCC executive director has found that the violations are egregious enough to justify a suspension of the license and the imposition of major monetary penalties," said the lawmaker when asked for comments about Atalig's complaint that he filed before CCC.

Atalig, through assistant attorney general Mike L. Ernest, asked CCC to declare that IPI committed the violations and failed to self-report to CCC all the facts that gave rise to the violations.

In his complaint, Atalig asked CCC to declare that each violation is a major offense and order IPI to pay a fine of \$50,000 per violation, for a total of \$100,000.

Atalig also asked the CCC to suspend IPI's license to have gaming operations on Saipan until such time as all required Community Benefit Fund payments are fully paid.

According to Ernest in the complaint, IPI is required by the Casino License Agreement to endow the Community Benefit Fund \$20 million on or before June 1, 2018, and another \$20 million on or before Oct. 1, 2019, yet failed to do so, and that IPI did not self-report the violations and has not accepted responsibility for the conduct underlying the offenses.

Sablan and some other lawmakers have long been pressing both the Torres-Palacios administration and the CCC to shed light on IPI's compliance with their Community Benefit Fund obligations in the casino license agreement.

Sablan said it is clear to them from records released by the Office of the Governor pursuant to an Open Gov-

ernment Act request made by minority lawmakers that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has done little to enforce that part of the casino license agreement. Sablan said they still do not know what has become of the \$10 million that IPI initially deposited in a Community Benefit Fund bank account.

She pointed out that at last week's joint hearing with the House of Representatives and Senate gaming committees, CCC chair Edward DeLeon Guerrero disclosed that the commission has a list of beneficiaries who received \$4.7 million from the Community Benefit Fund, but IPI would not authorize the commission to release those records.

"We do not know why," said Sablan, adding that the remaining \$5.3 million has apparently been spent on other obligations not in compliance with the purpose of the Community Benefit Fund, as provided in the license agreement.

She said IPI has also failed to respond to the Office of the Public Auditor's request for records so it could audit the Community Benefit Fund.

The lawmaker said the minority bloc has urged the House Gaming Committee to subpoena these records directly from IPI as soon as possible.

"The question remains: Where did all that money go?" Sablan said.

IPI, through counsel Michael W. Dotts, said the company finds itself unable to fund the Community Benefit Fund at this time and is hoping that the Lottery Commission will agree to amend its license to push back the time to pay into the fund.

Dotts said IPI has paid over \$300 million in taxes since starting its business, has helped create jobs for many residents, and has helped the growth of the tourism industry in the CNMI.

"Now IPI needs the help of the CNMI," he said, adding that the Lottery Commission agreeing to amend the license to push back the payments into the Community Benefit Fund should resolve Atalig's complaint.

JUDGE

From Page 2

nal matter ineffectively assisted him. But Kim-Tenorio said Reyes provides no evidence supporting his assertion.

Reyes points to the fact that after his sentencing, his attorney and the Public Defender's Office filed a motion for withdrawal as court-appointed counsel as evidence to support his IAC allegation.

Reyes also alleges that his appellate attorney for his initial trial court sentence failed to comply with his instruction to include IAC of his trial attorney before the CNMI Su-

preme Court, thus subjecting his appellate attorney to an allegation of IAC as well.

Kim-Tenorio said that, while Reyes makes baseless accusations regarding IAC, she notes that throughout his criminal matter, at least nine court-appointed attorneys either withdrew their representation by their own volition, or were withdrawn due to complaints by Reyes.

Kim-Tenorio said she finds it highly improbable that the reasons for all withdrawals were because the attorneys of the CNMI are incapable.

"And just as before, Reyes attempts to blame the outcome of his fate on others rather than on himself," the judge said.

No to corruption

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The short and easy answer is: If you see corruption happening, report it to the Office of the Public Auditor.

That is the message of OPA legal counsel and director of investigation Ashley Kost, who assures the community that they take corruption matters seriously.

“The Office of the Public Auditor has a duty to detect fraud, waste, and abuse of government funds, and we cover the Government Ethics Act,” said Kost. “We take our job very seriously, so any corruption that falls under that, we take it seriously and look into it.”

This comes soon as social media is dominated by allegations about Cabinet members getting overtime work for COVID-19 operation authorized, despite the thousands of government employees having been furloughed. Many cite the CNMI’s experience after Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018, when rumors were rife about Cabinet members getting paid for overtime work.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has made it clear that the documents are just authorizations, and have not actually been paid. Cabinet members are also not eligible for overtime. Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said it himself, “In my full understanding of overtime regulations or laws, Cabinet members, being exempt employees, are not allowed to be paid overtime pay.”

This, however, has not stopped people from talking. Minority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Sipan) was one of those who compared the same experience during Super Typhoon Yutu and now, under COVID-19, “we are seeing double pay for Cabinet members, which is even worse than overtime pay.”

“Those connected are making huge sums of money, while those who are furloughed are still waiting for their unemployment assistance. How sad,” Propst stated.

In January, OPA received a letter from the Office of the Attorney General about overtime payments during Yutu. An audit on the case is ongoing; the investigations and findings have yet to be finalized.

‘Nobody wants corruption’

“Nobody wants to have corruption on the island or anywhere,” Torres said in Monday’s radio news briefing.

Regarding the House of Representatives’ Oversight Committee on Federal Assistance requesting access to payroll records, the governor asserted that everything is public record. “We never hide anything and we’re not planning to hide anything. If

anyone’s concerned, it is public record. ...Any individual [who] wants to find any documents that the government has can go ahead and make the request and we will provide those documents,” he said.

Patrick Guerrero, the governor’s authorized representative, is working with other agencies to put together information—on overtime and contracts, among others—to provide to the committee within the week.

According to Guerrero, he received three letters, one on May 28 asking for about 12 contracts the committee wanted to look into. The second letter, received on June 2, asked for a list of newly hired employees funded wholly or partially using funding from the CARES Act, FEMA, or other federal sources.

Guerrero said there has been no hiring under any FEMA program, and that he will reaching out to the Department of Finance who watches over CARES Act, as well as the Governor’s Office, for concerns on other federal programs, to compile the list..

The third letter, received last June 4, is in relation to overtime costs, and a complete list of all government employees, and he will be working with the Homeland Security, to get the needed documents.

“We are transparent and we’ll open the books and everything for them to view,” Guerrero added.

Report what you know


Investigation on corruption starts with a “tip” from either the OPA’s tip line or the public, or through information OPA gathers from the news. All investigations from the tips that come in, until the dispositions of the cases, are confidential.

If it is in the OPA’s purview—fraud, waste, and abuse of government funds, and the Government Ethics Act—they look into it to see if there is enough information, or if they have resources to look into it. Then OPA goes through its normal process, and take whatever steps are necessary for the investigation.


From there, Kost said, the case either gets closed because there is not enough information; gets handled administratively, which happens often when working with the government; or gets handled criminally.

“At that point, we refer it over to the Attorney General’s Office for prosecution. If there’s a federal nexus, we’ll refer it over to the U.S. Attorney’s Office,” she added.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Honorable Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Honorable Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Department of Public Works (DPW) would like to notify the general public of the 4-Year Federal-Aid Highway Program Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) Amendment-1.

A copy of the plan can be obtained at DPW Technical Services Division Highway Branch for review and comments. Written comments must be submitted directly to DPW TSD Highway Branch, 2nd. Floor Joeten Commercial Bldg., Beach Road (above First Hawaiian Branch) or via email to: lms.dpwtsd@gmail.com no later than July 01, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Should you have any questions regarding DPW TTIP, you may contact Ms. Lorraine M. Seman, Highway Administrator or Mr. Kenn Aldan, Federal Program Coordinator at the Department of Public Works TSD Highway Branch at 234-9828 or 234-9838.

The following are listed in the TTIP Amendment-1:

I. CNMI DEPARTMENT OF Public Works Technical Services Division HIGHWAY BRANCH 4-YEAR Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan Amendment-1: PROJECTS FUNDED BY: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Amendment 1

DISTRICT	VILLAGE	ROUTE NO.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF WORK	FY2020 FEDERAL	FY2021 FEDERAL	FY2022 FEDERAL	FY2023 FEDERAL
ALL	ALL	FY	Highway Planning, Technology Transfer & Training Activities Program-	Admin	\$ 975,986.00	\$ 1,417,604.20	\$ 1,931,986.00	\$ 1,644,486.00
ALL	ALL	OJTSS	On The Job Training Support Services	Admin	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 37,500.00
ALL	ALL	NSTI	National Summer Transportation Institute	Admin	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
I	Songsong	10	Route 10 Drainage upgrade from Pinatang Phase II	PE-Design Construction			\$ 1,500,000.00	
I	Sinapalo	11	Route 11 - Sabana Road Improvement, Phase II	Construction		\$ 1,750,000.00		
I	Dugi	103	Route 103 - Roadway Improvements	PE Design		\$ 300,000.00		
II	San Jose	202	Route 202 - Hazard Elimination	PE Design Construction		\$ 500,000.00		
III	Chalan Lulau - Garapan	30	Route 30 - Chalan Pale Arnold Hazard Elimination	PE ROW Construction CM		\$ 1,000,000.00		
	Chalan Lulau - Garapan	30	Route 30 - Installation of Traffic Light System	PE Design Construction CM		\$ 2,500,000.00		
III	As Perdido	32	As Perdido Road Safety Improvements	PE Design Construction CM-DPW			\$ 200,000.00	
III	Oleai-Christo Rai	33	Beach Road Hazard Elimination Project, Phase 3 (JP Center to Oleai)	PE Design Construction CM		\$ 400,000.00		
III	Christo Rai - Micro Beach	33	Beach Road Hazard Elimination Project, Phase 4 - Roundabout	PE Design Construction CM		\$ 1,000,000.00 \$ 200,000.00		
III	Dandan	35	Route 35 - Airport Road Improvement	PE Design Construction CM-DPW	\$ 2,500,000.00			
III	Obyan	302/304	Naftan Road and Flametree Road Improvements	Env. Update Construction CM	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00 \$ 300,000.00		
III	Capitol Hill	310	Route 310 Tapochao Road and drainage Improvements	PE Design Construction CM	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00 \$ 150,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00 \$ 150,000.00	
III	Gualo Rai	317	Route 317 - Gualo Rai Road and Drainage Improvements	PE Design Construction CM-DPW			\$ 1,500,000.00	
	Island-Wide		Island-Wide Hazard Elimination, Saipan	Construction			\$ 1,500,000.00	
TOTAL OBLIGATION					\$ 4,053,486.00	\$ 13,575,104.20	\$ 8,339,486.00	\$ 1,701,986.00
Estimated Carry Over Prior Fiscal Year TOTAL:					\$ 603,225.00	\$ 14,813,805.99	\$ 5,282,001.79	\$ 985,815.79
FMIS Unobligated Funds (Closed-Out Projects/De-obligated Funds)					\$ 14,220,766.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
OJTSS/NSTI					\$ 57,500.00	\$ 57,500.00	\$ 57,500.00	\$ 57,500.00
Annual Allocation:					\$ 3,985,800.00	\$ 3,985,800.00	\$ 3,985,800.00	\$ 3,985,800.00
TOTAL ALLOCATION (not including Other Funds)					\$ 18,867,291.99	\$ 18,857,105.99	\$ 9,325,301.79	\$ 5,029,115.79
TOTAL OBLIGATION (not including other funds)					\$ 4,053,486.00	\$ 13,575,104.20	\$ 8,339,486.00	\$ 1,701,986.00
FISCAL ALLOCATION TO HQ (Not including Other Funds)					\$ 14,813,805.99	\$ 5,282,001.79	\$ 985,815.79	\$ 3,327,129.79
TOTAL ALLOCATION - other (ER, Special Funds, etc.)								

Man allegedly assaults girlfriend

A man allegedly assaulted his girlfriend at their home in San Antonio last May 17 after she tried to stop him from going to a friend's house for a drinking session because of fears he would be infected by COVID-19.

Marcil Barao, 55, was ar-

rested in Koblerville last Thursday on charges of assault and battery and disturbing the peace. He was taken before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho last Friday for bail hearing. A \$5,000 cash bail was ini-

tially imposed for his temporary release.

According to police detective Daniel K. Kaipat, police received a call last May 17 about a disturbance at an apartment in Chalan Laulau and learned that Barao alleg-

edly assaulted his girlfriend earlier that day at their home in San Antonio. Kaipat stated in his report that during his interview with the girlfriend the following day, May 18, she stated that Barao had been drinking in the early morning that day, May 17. She said Barao asked her to go with

him to his friend's house, but she refused to go around the island as she's scared of the coronavirus. The two ended up arguing when she told him to stay home, instead of going around or going to any gathering as he may get the virus. When she told him not to leave the house, Barao allegedly pulled her hair and hit her once on the back of her head. She said she felt dizzy

and sustained a small bump on the back of her head. Barao left the house.

Kaipat said that during his separate interview with Barao, the defendant admitted he was already drunk at that time and wanted to go to his friend's house to drink some more. Kaipat said Barao stated he only pushed his girlfriend when she refused to allow him to leave the house. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Burglary and theft at Lower Base warehouse

On Monday, June 8, 2020, at about 9:16am, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting a burglary and theft incident at a JG Sablan warehouse in Lower Base. Police were dispatched to the scene.

At the scene, officers met with the caller who also owns the warehouse. The caller led police into the warehouse to show the damages to the office door. The caller also told officers that a 32" RCA flat-screen TV with a built-in DVD player had been taken. At this time an inventory of items within the warehouse is being conducted. The burglary was recorded on a surveillance camera.

DPS would like to remind the public to be diligent when purchasing television sets and/or electronics from unknown individuals, or online. If you or someone you know has been approached recently by any individual offering to sell



This frame grab shows the burglary and theft incident at a JG Sablan warehouse in Lower Base. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

you a 32" RCA flat-screen TV with a built-in DVD player we encourage you to call 911 immediately, or if you wish to remain anonymous you may

call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. (*PR*)

SCS graduates fundraise for yearend rites

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Community School's graduating eighth graders joined forces to raise funds for their graduation ceremony and make it as memorable as possible despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Amanda Dunn, SCS principal and superintendent, their eighth-grade socially-distanced graduation parade was made possible through the class' CandyGram fundraiser that started as early as February.

The class was able to rent out Mustang convertibles for students who wanted them while others opted to decorate their family cars. "The reason for this is to make it special but also because we wanted to provide equality in the vehicles used in the parade. They were not required to use a Mustang but it was available. Each graduate chose to take this opportunity," she said.

In compliance with social distancing measures in place, graduates walked through the SCS chapel one at a time, collected their awards and certificates, and walked back to their vehicle to prepare for the parade along Beach Road.

SCS salutatorian Jung Hyun "Olivia" Hwang led her graduating class during their drive-thru graduation last May 21. She said that, although this year's graduation is far from traditional, it still brought so much happiness to her and her class.

"It would possibly have been a happier ending to the school year, seeing all of the students' faces, but this graduation is still a big happiness for me. When I grow up and look back at all the great memories of my childhood, I hope that this will be a part of it. ...I would like to thank all the people who have prepared this graduation for the 8th graders," she said. "...I hope that I can adapt to high school well and meet many friends and great teachers there. I also hope that this school will last a long time and leave many students of SCS with great memories and lead them to a path of success," she said.

The awards given out during the SCS graduation ceremony were:

- Hui Yun (Joshua) Park: Valedictorian, honors, Presidential Academic Excellence Award Gold, A Honor Roll, Uke Elite award.
- Jung Hyun (Olivia) Hwang: Salutatorian, honors, Presidential Academic Excellence Award Gold, A Honor Roll, Uke Elite award.
- Isaiah Roger Aleksenko: Honors, Presidential Academic Excellence Award Gold, A Honor Roll, Band Leadership award.
- Paul William DLG Camacho: Honors, SCS Citizenship Award, Presidential Academic Excellence Award Gold, A Honor Roll.
- Daniel Ju: Presidential Academic Achievement Award Silver, B honor Roll.
- Kevin (Tae Kyoung) Kim: Presidential Academic Excellence Award Gold, Principal's List, perfect attendance award.
- Martin (Hui Tae) Park: SCS Loyalty award
- Jeremy Yoon: Presidential Academic Achievement Award Silver, B Honor Roll.

CNMI boosts behavioral health workforce

By **IVA MAURIN**
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI is bent on boosting local capacity to address the community's behavioral health needs.

Dr. Glenda S. George shared at a Senate session last week how the Health Care Professions Licensing Board is seeing an increase in the CNMI's behavioral workforce, but remains committed to working to strengthen it further.

The Senate later confirmed, via a unanimous vote, the reappointment of George and Dr. Martin P. Rohringer as members of the Health Care Professions Licensing Board.

George, who received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Seattle Pacific University, works as the Clinical Services Officer at the Community Guidance Center, while Rohringer serves as chairman of Emergency Medicine at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Rohringer was unable to attend the confirmation as he had to attend to incoming

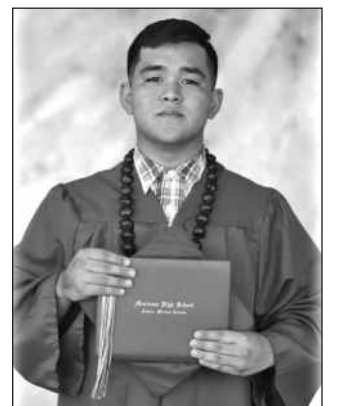
passengers, as part of the COVID-19 operations.

George said the CNMI has made "good progress, slowly but steadily" in boosting local capacity. "We've seen an increase in our behavioral health workforce, and these are things to be proud of. We do have our challenges as far as that, but so far, it's been a step in the right direction," she said. "On one hand, we're trying to nurture and groom our local capacity to be able to be sustainable for the future, and then on the other hand, I have the job to regulate and ensure the community's safety."

George also talked about her observations on the community's response to the pandemic. "We have a lot of strength in our community as far as following the guidelines and our commitment to protecting each other and our *man'amko* but, at the same time, we also have to remember that it's an uncertain time, so we need to be mindful of what we need to continue on the things that we're doing to protect the CNMI."


"The common theme that we've seen in the last couple months is how resilient this community is," she added, "but we're not out of the woods, and we cannot take that for granted."

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who nominated both, also expressed appreciation to the two for wanting to continue to help the CNMI.




CONGRATULATIONS!
Congratulations to Abel Grant Deleon Guerrero, who graduated from Marianas High School as a member of the Class of 2020! Greetings come from all your family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-20-023

CHINA TOWN WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of China Town Waterline Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general installation of a new main waterline and lateral service line; connection to the existing waterline; relocation of water meters from private property to right-of-way, installation of gate valve assembly, air release valves, fire hydrant assembly, flush hydrants; existing lateral service tap relocation; restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **June 25, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-023, China Town Water Line Replacement Project"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 16, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 30, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Kirztie Alley Reyes, CUC Water/Wastewater Jr. Engineer via email kirztie.reyes@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Technician Senior via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

SIS to host Model United Nations workshop this weekend

The Saipan International School Model United Nations will host a free virtual MUN workshop for high school students starting this weekend and running through July. The two-to-three-hour online sessions

will take place on June 13-14, 20-21; July 5, 11-12 and will finish with a mock MUN committee on July 18-19.

Model United Nations is an educational simulation of the United Nations where students can role play as diplomats from

LDTF revives Project Haligi

From demonstrating the CNMI's resiliency in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018, Project Haligi of the Lady Diann Torres Foundation is being renamed the 2020 Canvas of Hope, again, as a demonstration of the CNMI's resiliency but this time amid the COVID-19 pandemic. This is again intended to give artists in the CNMI a chance to display their talent to the community.

Project Haligi was created to invite local artists to illustrate their artwork of culture, the beauty of the island and its surroundings, and local myths and legends. The paintings or drawings are displayed on concrete power poles throughout the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Over the past years, the Northern Marianas has been hit by numerous typhoons of varying strengths. The CNMI was devastated by Typhoon Soudelor in 2015 and Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018. It all left images of destroyed homes, buildings and water, electricity, and communication infrastructure.

First lady Diann Torres and the members of the LDTF have decided that it's time to do something once more to lift the spirits of the people of

the CNMI.

"Project Haligi was born out of the need to spread hope. 'Haligi' is a Chamorro word that translates to 'pole.' These poles (power poles) will not only be used to spread a message of hope and strength, but will also be designed to help beautify the islands for our people and visitors," LDTF said in a statement.

In 2019, Project Haligi was able to dress up 44 concrete utility poles with island-themed artwork.

This year, LDTF is again inviting artists in the CNMI to submit their creative designs that express and represent any topic pertaining to the Northern Marianas.

LDTF will partner with local artists, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and local businesses to execute the project. Each artist will be receiving a stipend of \$100 to \$300 (depending on level of art) for each completed pole.

Local artists that are interested may apply at www.shortcut.at/bpJP9 and email a proposed art piece at tbaubta@mymarianas.com

For more information, contact 664-3200 and email tbaubta@mymarianas.com or ladydianntorres@gmail.com. (*Chevy Alipio*)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan International School Model United Nations Club participate in a two-day virtual conference hosted by the American School of Warsaw, or ZYGMUN, in May.

their assigned nation. This engages students in diplomacy and a deeper understanding of current events and issues world leaders are charged with solving. Students will learn parliamentary procedure, current issues, research skills, how to

write a position paper, and effective debate tactics in a MUN setting.

SIS' MUN club participated in a MUN conference in Jeju in 2019 and in a two-day virtual conference hosted by the American School of Warsaw,

or ZYGMUN, in May.

Students from all over the world participated in ZYGMUN this year, making the competition tough, requiring students to be prepared for debate and questioning, and boosting the confidence of SIS

students.

"In the beginning, I had certain worries and fears that I might not do very well or completely fail in doing it," said sophomore James Zeng. "But by the end of the conference, I felt like I learned a lot from each individual country and made many friends around the globe."

In only its second year, SIS' vibrant MUN club stayed active despite cancellation after cancellation. "We had a lot of cancelled events this year," SISMUN president Eileen No said. "Instead of giving up, we planned our own in-school SISMUN two-day conference before attending ZYGMUN online."

"I started this club because I was intrigued by MUN," No said. "Now it is time to bring what we have learned back home and hopefully inspire students in the CNMI to carry the torch."

Contact the SIS MUN club if you are in high school in the CNMI and interested in participating in the workshop at saipanmun@gmail.com. (*PR*)

Star Marianas sets additional flights to and from Rota

In response to requests from the Rota leadership and to accommodate increasing demand for travel, Star Marianas is operating a scheduled afternoon flight between Saipan and Rota on Tuesdays and Fridays starting yesterday, June 9. This flight will be in addition to its current morning flights on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Also, Star Marianas will be adjusting the departure times of its Tuesday and Friday morning scheduled flights between Saipan and Rota.

The updated flight schedule between Saipan and Rota is as follows:

follows:

Flight 1301

Route: Saipan to Rota
Departs Saipan: 8:30am
Arrives Rota: 9am
Days: Tuesday and Friday

Flight 3101

Route: Rota to Saipan
Departs Rota: 9:30am
Arrives Saipan: 10am
Days: Tuesday and Friday

Flight 1303

Route: Saipan to Rota
Departs Saipan: 3:30pm
Arrives Rota: 4pm

Days: Tuesday and Friday

Flight 3103

Route: Rota to Saipan
Departs Rota: 4:30pm
Arrives Saipan: 5pm
Days: Tuesday and Friday

Persons interested in making a reservation for Star Marianas' scheduled flights can book online by visiting: <https://www.starmarianasair.com/book-online> or by calling its reservations office at (670) 433-9996 or 9998 between the hours of 8am and 12pm and 2pm and 3pm, Monday through Sunday. (*PR*)

Job Vacancy Announcement

JOB TITLE: ACCOUNTANT
HOURS: FULL-TIME REGULAR
COMPANY'S NAME: GLOBAL TRADERS, INC.
PHYSICAL ADDRESS: MASON PL. AS LITO, SAIPAN MP 96950
EMAIL ADD: globaitspn@hotmail.com
SALARY: \$40,227.00

Job Duties:

1. Prepare, examine, and analyze accounting records, financial statements and other financial reports to assess accuracy, completeness and conformance to reporting and procedural standards.
2. Compute taxes and prepare tax returns, ensuring compliance with payment, reporting and other tax requirements.
3. Analyze business operations, costs, revenues and financial commitments and obligations.
4. Report to the management regarding the finances of the company.
5. Records and assign entries to proper accounts.
6. Maintain, analyze budgets and prepares periodic reports that compare budgeted costs to actual costs.
7. Prepares forms and manuals for accounting and bookkeeping personnel and their work activities.
8. Provide internal and external auditing services for businesses and individuals.
9. Appraise, evaluate and inventory real property and equipment, recording information as the property's description, value and location.
10. Summarizes current financial status by collecting information, preparing balance sheet, profit and loss statement, and other reports.
11. Secures financial information by completing data base backups.
12. Maintains financial security by following internal controls.
13. Prepares payments by verifying documentation and requesting disbursements.
14. Complies with federal, state, and local financial legal requirements by studying existing and new legislation, enforcing adherence to requirements and advising management on needed actions.
15. Answers accounting procedure questions by researching and interpreting accounting policy and regulations.

Minimum Job Requirements:

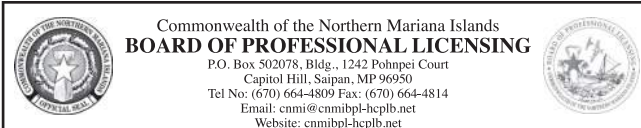
1. Bachelor's degree required must be a graduate of bachelor's of science in accountancy.
2. Twenty four months of working experience is required.

Special Requirements:

1. Must have knowledge in quick books, microsoft excel and word processing.
2. Must have math and organizational skills. Must have at least 24 months working experience with employment certification(s) on previous and/or present employer(s).

To Apply:

Interested applicants must submit their resume with complete credentials and requirements at the office of Global Traders, Inc. at Mason Pl. As Lito Saipan MP 96950 or mail to at P.O. Box 501507 Saipan MP 96950. Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm.



Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its quarterly board meeting on **Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 8:00a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Governor's Office Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes – (January 23, 2020)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairman's Report
- VII. Director's Report
 1. Office Operations during COVID-19 lockdown
 2. ASC Preliminary Compliance Review of the CNMI Appraiser Regulatory Program
 3. Financial Report – 3rd Quarter
 4. Upcoming NCARB Meetings:
 - 2020 NCARB Annual Business Virtual Meeting – June 20, 2020 (5am-9am)
 - 2020 NCEES Annual Business Meeting – Chicago, IL – August 26-29, 2020
- VIII. Investigator's Report
 - Complaints Received – information only
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor's Office
 - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
 - Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
 - 1.) Legal Services Request #20-120
- XI. New Business
 - Letter from David S. Demapan
- XII. Applications for Board's Review
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP NO.: DPW20-RFP-006

SUBMISSION DATE: June 30, 2020 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Archaeological Services for Kannat Tabla Road Flood Control and Drainage Project, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL Conference WILL BE HELD ON **June 16, 2020 AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME** AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Office, Saipan.

QUESTIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS June 23, 2020.** THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED WITHIN THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS AND WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ VIRGINIA C. VILLAGOMEZ
Governor's Authorized Rep. (GAR)

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 114

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Good riddance to neck-restraint tactic

It wasn't easy to tell from the swirl of discussion whether the tactic Derek Chauvin used against George Floyd was a sanctioned use of force under Minneapolis police procedures. The early word from people like Mayor Jacob Frey and police spokesman John Elder was no. And perhaps by that they meant the length of time Chauvin kept his knee on Floyd's neck, or the fact that Floyd was already handcuffed, or the fact that he died.

Yet there it was in the Police Department's Policy and Procedure Manual, section 5-311, "Use of neck restraints and choke holds," with dates of last prior revision:

Neck Restraint: Non-deadly force option. Defined as compressing one or both sides of a person's neck with an arm or leg, without applying direct pressure to the trachea or airway (front of the neck). Only sworn employees who have received training from the MPD Training Unit are authorized to use neck restraints. The MPD authorizes two types of neck restraints: Conscious Neck Restraint and Unconscious Neck Restraint. (04/16/12)

Conscious Neck Restraint: The subject is placed in a neck restraint with intent to control, and not to render the subject unconscious, by only applying light to moderate pressure. (04/16/12)

Unconscious Neck Restraint: The subject is placed in a neck restraint with the intention of rendering the person unconscious by applying adequate pressure. (04/16/12)

Consider that gone. Under an agreement approved unanimously by the City Council on Friday, officers would be forbidden from using both neck restraints and chokeholds. They also would be required to intervene when inappropriate force is used. The moves are part of a preliminary injunction in the lawsuit filed against the Minneapolis Police Department last week by the Minnesota Department of Human Rights.

It was clearly necessary to abolish the tactics. Last week NBC News, citing the MPD's use-of-force records, reported that officers in the city had used neck restraints 237 times since 2015, and in 44 of those instances—16% of the time—had rendered people unconscious. Since Floyd's death, law enforcement experts have widely denounced the technique as inherently dangerous, although that is not new knowledge. Merely leaving someone handcuffed and facedown for too long, let alone with added pressure, poses risks.

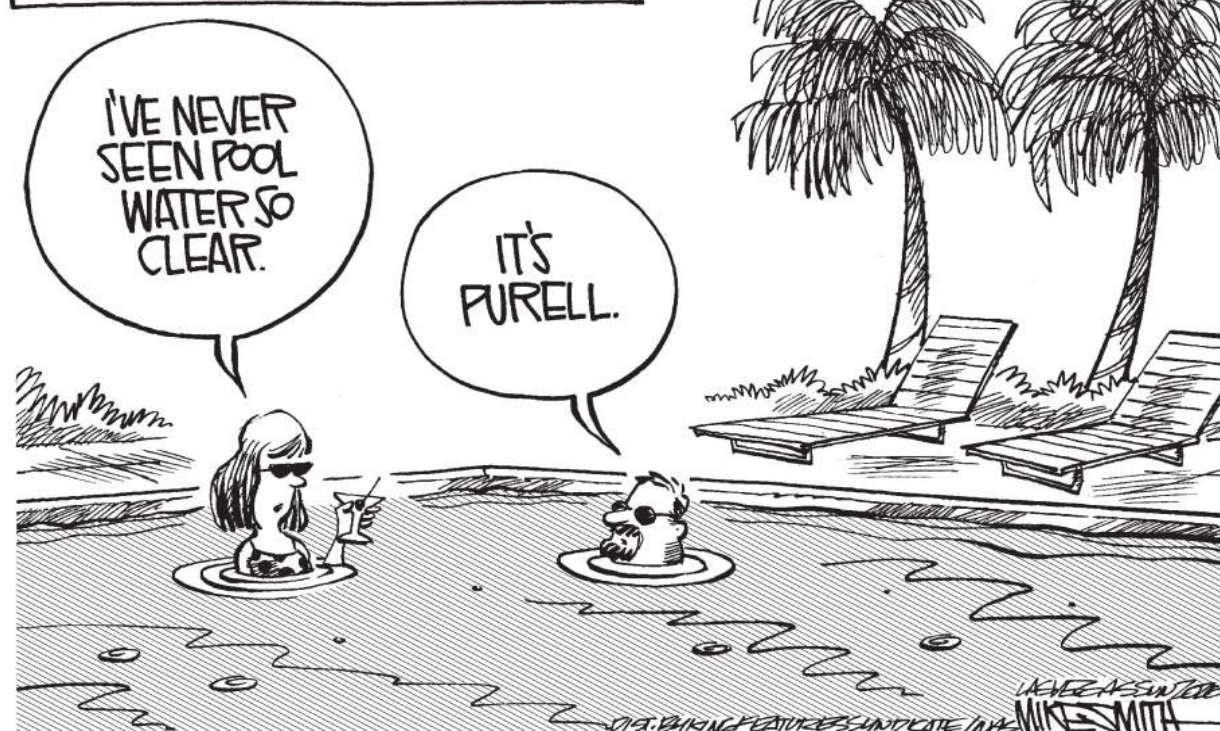
NBC's data was supported by a separate comment to the Star Tribune by Mary Moriarty, chief public defender in Hennepin County. "We look at bodycam, we look at dashcam," she said, "and we frequently see officers put their knees in a client's back or neck."

But Chauvin and the three officers on the scene with him were fired and face various charges ranging from second-degree murder (for Chauvin) to aiding and abetting murder (for the others). The policy that will apply to their cases is that which was in force when they encountered Floyd. So what was it—beyond the painfully obvious—that was not in keeping with established practice in the city?

Here again, the manual offers hints. It said the "uncon-

See **GOOD** on Next Page

LAS VEGAS REOPENS



Something's happening here. And it gives us reason to hope

*History says, Don't hope
On this side of the grave,
But then, once in a lifetime
The longed-for tidal wave
Of justice can rise up
And hope and history rhyme.*

Those words by the legendary Irish poet Seamus Heaney floated through my Twitter feed the other day, like a cool breeze on a scorching day. They came via The Irish Literary Times, a sign that the rebellion rumbling through our country is shaking up the world.

We don't call this moment in the spring of 2020 "history" yet, but one day we will. Even without the clarity of retrospect, we sense we're living through something that will shape the future in remarkable ways.

First came the pandemic, followed by economic upheaval that has changed how business works and people survive. Then came the killing of an unarmed black man—George Floyd—by a white Minneapolis police officer, which roused massive protests all over the country.

Protests. A pandemic. Plus a president who rules with an autocrat's taste for threat and insult. It's history in the making—exhausting, confusing, scary and full of promise.

Of course there's no single "we" in all of this. None of us is living through this time in exactly the same way. How old you are, where you live, the color of your skin, the money you make or don't, your political persuasion. Many things affect how this moment feels to each of us.

And how it feels can change from day to day.

"How are you doing in this strange time?" I ask everyone I talk to. If we're on a video call or talking from a distance, I often see them make a roller coaster motion with a hand. Up and down. Down and up. Day to day, hour by hour.

"I cry a lot," a couple have said.

But however it feels, there's no escaping, in the words of the famous Buffalo Springfield song: Something's happening here.

It's happening in big cities like Chicago, where in the past week, in neighborhoods of every racial and economic makeup, protesters have marched to protest George Floyd's killing and, more broadly, the police practices that have led to so many other unjust deaths.

It's happening in small towns like Taylorville, Ill., which is overwhelmingly white, where several hundred community members marched around the town square, many carrying "Black Lives Matter" signs, before lying down outside the courthouse.

By **MARY SCHMICH**
Chicago Tribune



Mary Schmich is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune and winner of the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for commentary.

It's happening in places like the wealthy, white Chicago suburb of Lake Forest, where a big crowd gathered for a vigil, listening to testaments from the area's black residents, one of whom said, "I am asking you to walk into the discomfort and not look away." Something's happening here.

It's true that for every hopeful story about this moment, there's an ugly counterpoint.

White people with bats playing vigilante in the Chicago neighborhood of Bridgeport. Looters, many of them black, stealing from stores in black neighborhoods that already struggle. People of different kinds smashing windows and looting Chicago's downtown.

For every story that speaks to hope and possibility, it's easy to find one that speaks to the worst in us.

You can be uplifted one minute by thousands of peaceful protesters outside the White House singing "Lean on Me," and horrified the next moment by police officers in Buffalo, N.Y., shoving a 75-year-old protester.

You can appreciate the many police officers who maintain their composure in the face of crowds loudly denouncing them, then be appalled by the Chicago cop who flips two middle fingers at a protester.

But the contrasts shouldn't be surprising. Protest is always messy. Progress is not a straight line. It happens in fits and starts, further complicated by arguments among people who share the same basic goals.

And it happens while the rest of life goes on, while a friend gets ill or has a baby or gets married, while we worry about our jobs and families, or admire the spring flowers or curse at the broken washing machine.

But something's happening here.

It's an extraordinary moment that could change our country for good—in both senses of the word "good," meaning in ways

See **SOMETHING'S** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

It is about time to create a new norm beyond the pandemic

By ONO KAZUHIKO

SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I recently came across an article posted on May 27, 2020, on the topic regarding the stance of the Japanese government facing the COVID-19 pandemic and on the “Mysterious Mystery” of how Japan has limited the numbers of outbreak. Today, I would like to cover specifically on the subject.

How has Japan avoided a large outbreak even without conducting a large number of testing (the number of testing Japan did is only 4% of that of Italy) and “no enforcement” for closing or reduction of operation by non-essential businesses? Western journalism regards this as a “Mysterious Mystery.” They are seeking answers, but yet to find the reason on how Japan was able to contain the outbreak in such a limited time.

As the COVID-19 outbreak spread throughout the world, Japan was also affected by this devastating pandemic. On April 7, Prime Minister Abe declared a state of emergency in seven prefectures: Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, Kanagawa, Osaka, Hyogo and Fukuoka. On April 16, he extended it to nationwide. On May 14, the nationwide State of Emergency was lifted except for eight prefectures: Tokyo, Osaka, Hokkaido, Saitama, Chiba, Kanagawa, Kyoto, and Hyogo. Prime Minister Abe finally lifted the state of emergency for these prefectures on May 25.

Despite the population of Japan being roughly 126 million, Japan has suffered about 17,000 confirmed cases and 900 deaths, avoiding a large outbreak compared to the United States or some European countries. Within the G7, Japan had the lowest cumulative numbers of new infections with 0.2 weekly (as of June 1, 2020) for every 100,000 people. To achieve this the Japanese government specifically put in place the following measures to contain the outbreak.

1. Provision and sharing of information

Provide the public with accurate information and clear message on the following points in a timely manner, promote awareness—raising to help change people’s behavior—and call for calm response.

- the infection situation and the medical information

SOMETHING’S

From Page 8

that will endure and ways that will make this land more equitable for more people.

In my lifetime, the world has become better in many ways—far from perfect, far from fair, full of setbacks, but overall better—and one reason is that enough people have believed it could and fought to make it happen.

In Seamus Heaney’s words:

So hope for a great sea-change

On the far side of revenge.

Believe that further shore

Is reachable from here.

GOOD

From Page 8

scious neck restraint” shall be applied only on a subject who is exhibiting active aggression, or for lifesaving purposes, or on a subject “who is exhibiting active resistance in order to gain control of the subject; and if lesser attempts at control have been or would likely be ineffective.”

It added, in the sweetly named “After Care Guidelines,” that “after a neck restraint or choke hold has been used on a subject, sworn MPD employees shall keep them under close observation until they are released to medical or other law enforcement personnel.”

Tragic results notwithstanding, the MPD has made an effort to improve its use-of-force policy in recent years, emphasizing de-escalation and the “sanctity of life.” And it deserves credit for keeping use-of-force records—the NBC report noted that a lack of such data from other departments made it impossible to compare police use of neck-restraint tactics by city.

The City Council is beginning to discuss ambitious changes in how public safety is maintained. Its passion is both inspiring and a bit fearsome. Careful scrutiny is warranted for many of the ideas floated in recent days, but the agreement advanced on Friday is a solid first step.

- the medical service system and test system

- the establishment of the “new lifestyle” that prevents the spread of infection, including avoiding “3 Cs” (closed spaces, crowded places, and close-contact settings) and basic counter-infection measures such as keeping distance, wearing a mask, and washing hands

- to refrain from leaving home when feeling sick

- the fact that a “lockdown” (city blockade) will not be taken.

2. Surveillance and information gathering

- Identify suspected disease carrier and conduct tests that the doctors consider necessary.

- Strengthen the testing system by utilizing local and private institutes. Introduce new testing technology promptly in the medical field. Promote the utilization of private testing institutes. Grasp the PCR testing system and make necessary coordination.

3. Pandemic prevention

- The prefectures under Specific Cautions requested cooperation in refraining from leaving home to “reduce the contact among people by 70% at a minimum or 80% ideally.” (Activities

» Is Japan’s recovery from COVID-19 a ‘Mysterious Mystery’?

necessary for maintaining daily life and health—such as visiting hospitals, purchasing food, medicine and daily necessities, going to workplaces as necessary, exercising outdoors or taking a walk—are excluded.)

Although a “lockdown” (city blockade) has not been taken in Japan, I truly believe that the main factor came from each individual’s self-awareness in preventing the spread.

Now Japan is moving toward to creating a new norm for the recovery from the pandemic, while maintaining balance with prevention of the spread of infection and taking into account the situation of infection and the capacity of medical service system in the region, gradually increasing the level of socio-economic activities.

By implementing the measures under the “Emergency Economic Measures for Response to COVID-19” (Cabinet decision April 20, 2020), including the supplementary budget for fiscal year 2020, nationally and locally, the Japanese government will work to prevent the spread of infections, strive to maintain employment, continue business, and support people’s lives.

Ono Kazuhiko is the Japanese consul on Saipan.

Jalous sees hope in the youth movement on full display across the country

How do you get all those young Americans protesting in the streets of cities across the country to keep up the pressure to make the big, overdue repairs this once-exceptional country needs?

How do you get them to keep fighting for police reforms, plus more affordable housing, higher education and health care? What will make them stay in the fight until there’s a visionary plan to deal with climate change and a strategy to address the seismic economic changes expected from technological advances?

And, looking straight ahead to November, how do you get young Americans excited about voting President Donald Trump out of office when his likely Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, is 77 years old?

Big, complex questions to ask 47-year-old Ben Jealous over a virtual cup of coffee.

Jealous, the former president of the NAACP and 2018 Democratic candidate for governor of Maryland, has a new job that will put him right in the middle of the big fight ahead: He takes over as president of People for the American Way on June 15. That’s the liberal organization founded by the legendary television producer Norman Lear (“All In The Family,” “Sanford & Son”) and Barbara Jordan, the late great congresswoman, in the early 1980s as an answer to the conservative Moral Majority. The PFAW has been in many of the nation’s biggest political brawls, and it has helped put hundreds of young, bright progressives into elected office across the country.

“The best way to get young people motivated to vote is to get young people running for office,” Jealous says, and he lists several men and women, under 35 years of age, who are campaigning for seats in Congress, state legislatures and city and county councils from New York to Georgia to California.

Get young people on tickets, Jealous says, and young people will vote.

Still, Biden doesn’t exactly flash youth appeal.

Doesn’t matter, says Jealous: Biden has “massive outrage over Donald Trump” on his side.

“Look, I’m hoping for a tidal wave election,” Jealous says. “In my new job, I’ll be focused in the next 150 days or so on making sure, doing everything in our power, to vote Trump out of office. Then we’ll be working on police reforms, equipping all elected officials who are similarly-minded with what they need to pass reforms at the state and local levels.

“We have to seize this moment. It has to be done at the state and local levels because (no reforms) will get through Donald Trump and (Senate majority leader) Mitch McConnell. I’m not going to hold my breath waiting for the federal government to do something.”

The Memorial Day death of George Floyd while pinned down by Minneapolis police officers, caught on a bystander’s cell-phone camera, was especially searing. But remember the video of Rodney King being violently beaten and stun-gunned by Los Angeles police officers? That was 1991.

By DAN RODRICKS

The Baltimore Sun



Dan Rodricks is a long-time columnist for the Baltimore Sun.

“We’ve had three decades of such videos,” Jealous says. “What black America has never been allowed to forget for 300 years all of America has been forced to watch for the last 30.”

The images of Floyd’s death, with the knee of a police officer on his neck, set off massive protests. Police brutality is at the root of it, but there’s a lot more going on.

“I think historians will look back on these as the COVID-era uprisings,” says Jealous, who just raised \$1 million in coronavirus relief for Baltimore hotel and restaurant workers. “There’s a lot of anxiety out there already about jobs, about health care, about evictions. But you have this blaze of anger. ... The spark might be (police brutality) but the lighter of that spark is going off somewhere else in America every day.

“So, you have both these (underlying factors) and the power of the image—both at their maximum.”

Jealous goes back to the youth vote. He believes it’s a key step toward moving forward with the police reforms he and other civil rights leaders have been arguing for. Elect young reformers—perhaps from among those protesting in the streets this spring—and you can make improvements in how police are recruited and trained, and in how they treat people of color.

Again, the states need to pick this up, Jealous says. The states, Maryland among them, have already made progress in fixing laws that led to the mass incarceration we saw over the last four decades. “Our efforts in police reform,” he says, “need to be part of the broader criminal justice reforms.”






And the focus, to begin with, should be on the 20 metropolitan areas where most people of color live. “That represents about 100 to 125 counties,” Jealous adds. “If you change the rules just in those counties, we will save lives and change lives.

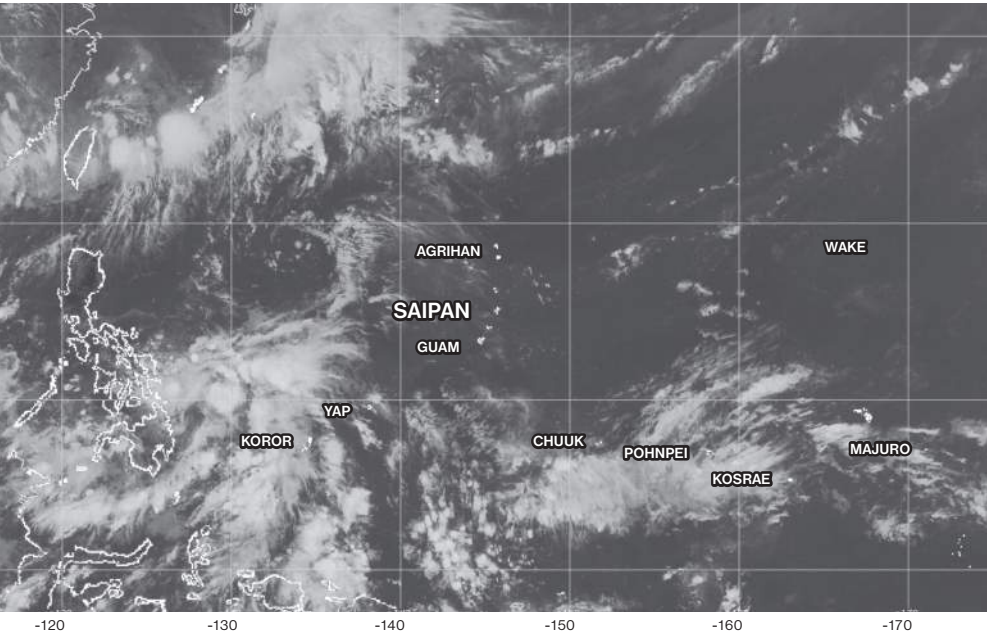
“We’ve got to get the courage at the local, city and state levels to really take this on, to have a national standard on the use of force by police and for the training of officers.”

As he takes on the top job at PFAW, Jealous says, he has hope in the new youth movement and for the country, even with the mess created by Trump’s delayed response to the coronavirus outbreak and his increasing authoritarianism, on full display in his answer to the mass protests.

“It’s a powerful way for me to get back in the fight,” Jealous says, though I don’t think he left it.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
90°	79°	90°	79°	89°	79°	89°	79°	89°	79°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:11 AM, TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

East trade winds and a few showers prevail across the Marianas this morning. A dry weather pattern will persist through much of the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/


STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors



CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

- ### Continue good hand hygiene

 - Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
 - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.
- ### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

 - Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not avail-

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:41 AM	10:53 PM
Thursday	-	10:34 AM	11:36 PM
Friday	-	11:25 AM	-
Saturday	-	12:15 AM	12:13 PM
Sunday	-	12:51 AM	1:00 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	59° / 50°	
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	93° / 70°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	86° / 74°	
London	Showers	63° / 52°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	91° / 66°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	57° / 41°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	82° / 71°	
Osaka	Thunderstorms	82° / 73°	
Paris	Rain	72° / 55°	
Busan	Showers	79° / 70°	
Rome	Thunderstorms	72° / 59°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	85° / 67°	
San Francisco	Windy	70° / 53°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	86° / 66°	
Tokyo	Rain	82° / 73°	
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	93° / 76°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:36 AM	LOW TIDE	1.41	
9:42 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.82	
5:18 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.02	
-	-	-	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri	3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri	3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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Business

Waki's Carpet Cleaning
always gives 100%

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

It's a dirty job, but someone's got to do it and Waki's Carpet Cleaning is always on your beck and call when it comes to carpet cleaning. Established six years ago, Waki's Carpet Cleaning is catered to a market who wants the best cleaning job on island at affordable prices.

"I pride myself in providing professional, quality, and affordable cleaning services... I did not close the business amidst COVID-19 because I thought this was also the best time to help people keep their surroundings disinfected and clean although I did not have any inquiries or requests for services for about 45 days," proprietor Ab-salon Waki Jr. said.

"I am a one-man operation and I usually work alone on projects that is why the work is never less than 100% because of the focus. I travel to customers' homes or offices and service them there. For area rugs and auto interior detailing, I usually clean them at my home/office," Waki added.



Aside from carpets, Waki's Carpet Cleaning does couches, love-seats, and chairs.

Waki's Carpet Cleaning shampooing prices is based on how big the item is. For office and home carpets \$0.50 per square foot with additional charge for movement and replacement of furniture. For area rugs, under 5'x 7', minimum \$20 and \$0.50 per square foot for larger rugs (pick-up and delivery available).

For couches, loveseats, and chairs prices can go as high as \$50 and for bed mattresses it can go as high as \$40. Prices are based on size of units and

larger than normal units will cost slightly higher. Auto interior detailing includes sedans, SUVs, and vans.

Ever since, Waki follows health and safety protocols. "When at a customer's location, I wear my mask and no one is usually around me when I am working. At my home or office, I wear my mask when customers are dropping off the merchandise that I will be cleaning," he said.

"I am usually available to serve customers from every day at the time that is convenient to my clients. Since I have commercial customers



Waki's Carpet Cleaning brings back bright colors to your floors whether in the office or home.

like hotels, museums, libraries, etc., they do not want me to clean during normal business so I usually serve them after 5pm and before 8am. With regular customers, I am

available from 9am to 4pm and I do try my best to close on Sundays, but will accommodate customers if this is the only day they are available," he added

Waki's Carpet Cleaning is open Monday to Sunday from 9am to 4pm. For more information, call (670) 488-1058 or (670) 287-9254 and email waki711@gmail.com.

For more information,
call (670) 488-1058
or (670) 287-9254

As business trickles back, hotels compete on cleanliness

Marriott, Hilton and other big hotel companies are used to competing on price or perks. Now they are competing on cleanliness.

From masked clerks at the front desk to shuttered buffets, hotels are making visible changes in the wake of the pandemic. Signage will tout new cleaning regimens: Red Roof Inns promise "RediClean," while Hilton boasts of "CleanStay with Lysol."

Hotels are still mostly empty; in the U.S., occupancy stood at 37% the week ending May 30, down 43% from the same period a year ago, according to STR, a data and consulting firm. But leisure travel is starting to pick up, and hotels see cleaning standards as a way to soothe jittery guests—and possibly win back business from rivals like home-sharing companies like Airbnb.

"I think, more than ever, customers are going to be

looking for that seal of approval," said Phil Cordell, Hilton's head of global new brand development, who is leading the group developing the company's new cleaning standards.

Some hotel brands are more stringent than others, says Larry Yu, a professor of hospitality management at George Washington University. He notes that Accor Hotels, a French company, has developed accreditation standards that its hotels must meet in order to reopen.

But Yu said enhanced cleaning is happening everywhere.

"Everybody is doing it, because it is now expected by consumers," he said.

Guests are already seeing differences. David Whitesock, the chief innovation officer for Face It Together, an addiction counseling company, moved from Denver to upstate New York over

Memorial Day weekend. He stayed at Marriott hotels in Iowa and Ohio along the way.

There were some oddities. Police tape separated him from the front desk in Iowa, and the hotel gave him a key card even though he would have preferred to unlock his room door using Marriott's app. Whitesock brought his own food, but noticed pre-packaged breakfasts laid out where buffets used to be.

But he said his rooms looked, felt and smelled cleaner than they used to. All the guests wore masks and respectfully kept their distance, he said.

"I felt like it was a safe place to be, that they had done the best that they possibly could given the circumstances," Whitesock said. "A lot of it comes down to, do you trust the hotels and the people who you are going to come into contact with there?" (AP)

A US recession began in February in the face of coronavirus

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. economy entered a recession in February as the coronavirus struck the nation, a group of economists declared Monday, ending the longest expansion on record.

The economists said that employment, income and spending peaked in February and then fell sharply afterward as the viral outbreak shut down businesses across the country, marking the start of the downturn after nearly 11 full years of economic growth.

A committee within the National Bureau of Economic Research, a private nonprofit

group, determines when recessions begin and end. It broadly defines a recession as "a decline in economic activity that lasts more than a few months."

For that reason, the NBER typically waits longer before making a determination that the economy is in a downturn. In the previous recession, the committee did not declare that the economy was in recession until December 2008, a year after it had actually begun. But in this case, the NBER said the collapse in employment and incomes was so steep that it could much more quickly make a determination.

"The unprecedented magnitude of the decline in employment and production, and its broad reach across the entire economy, warrants the designation of this episode as a recession, even if it turns out to be briefer than earlier contractions," the NBER panel said.

The way the NBER defines recessions, they begin in the same month that the previous expansion ends. Because the economy peaked in February, that is the month when the recession officially began, rather than in March, when unemployment began to rise.



LEADING INDICATORS

S&P
3,227.75
+0.25
+0.01%

DOW
27,577.00
+50.00
+0.18%

NASDAQ
9,898.00
+13.25
+0.13%

In U.S. dollar terms

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar
British Pound
Canadian Dollar
Chinese Yuan
Euro

1.43
0.79
1.34
6.71
0.89

Hong Kong Dollar
Indian Rupee
Japanese Yen
Malaysian Ringgit
New Zealand Dollar
Philippine Peso

7.75
74.92
107.95
4.22
1.53
48.97

Russian Ruble
Singapore Dollar
South Korean Won
Swiss Franc
Taiwan Dollar
Thailand Baht

67.25
1.39
1,170.82
0.96
29.18
31.33

Nation

George Floyd, whose death energized a movement, to be buried

HOUSTON (AP)—The black man whose death has inspired a worldwide reckoning over racial injustice will be buried in Houston Tuesday, carried home in a horse-drawn carriage.

George Floyd, who was 46 when he was killed, will be laid to rest next to his mother. On May 25, as a white Minneapolis officer pressed a knee on Floyd's neck for several minutes, the dying man cried out for his mother.

His funeral will be private. A public memorial service was held Monday in Houston, where he grew up. Some 6,000 people attended.

Under a blazing Texas sun, mourners wearing T-shirts with Floyd's picture or the words "I Can't Breathe"—one of the other things he cried out repeatedly while pinned down by the police officer—waited for hours to pay their respects. Floyd's body, dressed in a brown suit, lay in an open gold-colored casket.

Shortly after the memorial ended, Floyd's casket was placed in a hearse and escorted by police back to a funeral home.

As the hearse drove away, 39-year-old Daniel Osarobo, a Houston resident who immigrated from Nigeria, could be heard saying, "Rest in power. Rest In Peace."

"I've been stopped by police. I understand the situation. I can only imagine," said Osarobo, who works as an engineer in the oil and gas industry. "What if it was me? What if it was my brother? What if it was my sister? What if it was my son?"



Mourners pass by the casket of George Floyd during a public visitation for Floyd at the Fountain of Praise church Monday, June 8, 2020, in Houston. AP

Those were questions that many black Americans have asked not just in recent weeks, but for decades.

Floyd's death sparked international protests and drew new attention to the treatment of African Americans in the U.S. by police and the criminal justice system. In the past two weeks, sweeping and previously unthinkable things have taken place: confederate statues have been toppled, police departments around America have rethought the way they patrol minority neighborhoods, legislatures have debat-

ed use-of-force policies, and white, black and brown people have had uncomfortable, sometimes heated, discussions about race in a country that is supposed to ensure equal opportunity for all.

Calls for "defunding the police" have cropped up in many communities, and people around the world took to the streets in solidarity, saying that reforms and dialogue must not stop with Floyd's funeral.

His death has also reshaped the presidential race. President Donald Trump is hoping to rebound from one of the low-

est points of his presidency as recent polls show that 8 in 10 Americans believe the country is headed in the wrong direction and even spiraling out of control. The president got a boost late last week with a better-than-expected jobs report, but he's struggling to show consistent leadership on several issues, including the nationwide protests against police brutality.

Meanwhile, former Vice President Joe Biden met with Floyd's family Monday, according to a photo posted on Twitter by the Rev. Al Sharp-

ton. Biden will provide a video message for Floyd's funeral service. Previous memorials have taken place in Minneapolis and Raeford, North Carolina, near where Floyd was born.

The memorial service drew the families of black victims in other high-profile killings whose names have become seared in America's conversation over race—among them Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Ahmaud Arbery and Trayvon Martin.

"It just hurts," said Philonise Floyd, George Floyd's brother, sobbing as he ticked

off some of their names outside The Fountain of Praise church. "We will get justice. We will get it. We will not let this door close."

For 14 nights, hundreds of thousands of people have taken to the streets in protest of police brutality and racial inequality. Cities imposed curfews as several protests last week were marred by spasms of arson, assaults and smash-and-grab raids on businesses. More than 10,000 people have been arrested around the country, according to reports tracked by The Associated Press.

But protests in recent days have been overwhelmingly peaceful—and over the weekend, several police departments appeared to retreat from aggressive tactics. Thousands of Los Angeles protesters arrested for violating curfew and other police orders will not be charged with a crime, prosecutors said Monday.

Four Minneapolis officers were charged in connection with Floyd's death, which was captured on video by bystanders, who begged police to stop hurting him.

A Minnesota judge on Monday kept bail at \$1.25 million for Derek Chauvin, the police officer charged with second-degree murder in Floyd's death. Chauvin's former co-workers, J Alexander Kueng, Thomas Lane and Tou Thao, are charged as accomplices.

The 44-year-old Chauvin said almost nothing during the 11-minute hearing while appearing on closed-circuit television from a maximum-security prison.

Democrats propose sweeping police overhaul; Trump criticizes

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrats in Congress proposed a far-reaching overhaul of police procedures and accountability Monday, a sweeping legislative response to the mass protests denouncing the deaths of black Americans in the hands of law enforcement.

The political outlook is deeply uncertain for the legislation in a polarized election year. President Donald Trump is staking out a tough "law and order" approach in the face of the outpouring of demonstrations and demands to re-imagine policing in America.

"We cannot settle for anything less than transformative structural change," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, drawing on the nation's history of slavery.

Before unveiling the package, House and Senate Democrats held a moment of silence at the Capitol's Emancipation

Hall, reading the names of George Floyd and many others killed during police interactions. They knelt for 8 minutes and 46 seconds—now a symbol of police brutality and violence—the length of time prosecutors say Floyd was pinned under a white police officer's knee before he died.

Trump, who met with law enforcement officials at the White House, characterized Democrats as having "gone CRAZY!"

As activists beyond Capitol Hill call to restructure police departments and even to "defund the police," the president tweeted, "LAW & ORDER, NOT DEFUND AND ABOLISH THE POLICE." He declared later, "We won't be dismantling our police."

Democratic leaders pushed back, saying their proposal would not eliminate police departments—a decision for

cities and states—but establish new standards and oversight.

Joe Biden, the presumed Democratic presidential nominee, "does not believe that police should be defunded," said spokesman Andrew Bates.

The Justice in Policing Act, the most ambitious law enforcement reform from Congress in years, confronts several aspects of policing that have come under strong criticism, especially as more and more police violence is captured on cellphone video and shared widely across the nation and the world.

The package would limit legal protections for police, create a national database of excessive-force incidents and ban police choke holds, among other changes.

It would revise the federal criminal police misconduct statute to make it easier to prosecute officers who are involved

in "reckless" misconduct and it would change "qualified immunity" protections to more broadly enable damage claims against police in lawsuits.

The legislation would ban racial profiling, boost requirements for police body cameras and limit the transfer of military equipment to local jurisdictions.

Overall, the bill seeks to provide greater transparency of police behavior in several ways. For one, it would grant subpoena power to the Justice Department to conduct "pattern and practice" investigations of potential misconduct and help states conduct independent investigations.

And it would create a "National Police Misconduct Registry," a database to try to prevent officers from transferring from one department to another with past misconduct undetected, the draft says.

A look back, and follow-up, on coronavirus good-deed tales

One Good Thing, each day. That was the guiding principle when The Associated Press launched this fixture in mid-March.

An act of generosity or self-sacrifice. A whimsical gesture to distract neighbors from anxiety or cabin fever. A helping hand to a person thrown out of a job, support for a patient struggling with COVID-19, solidarity with the medical professional toiling day and night to save them.

Nearly three months later, there's been no end to the tales of good deeds we've found.

Whitney Rutz began making giant cinnamon rolls in March, initially to amuse herself and later, as they took off online, to raise money for the Oregon Food Bank.

By now the Portland, Oregon resident has rustled up

more than \$50,000 in donations and sent out over 100 rolls, most of them to health care and other essential workers. "Some weeks it was overwhelming," she says, reached by AP for a follow-up. "Other times it was the most uplifting experience."

With the nation in ongoing turmoil, including nearly two weeks of outrage and nationwide protests over the police killing of George Floyd, Rutz is looking to use her rolls to support other causes. She's still working out details, but she'd like to help schoolkids from low-income families: "It has a lot to do with racial inequities. The kids are our future."

Even "while our country is suffering," Rutz adds, "I really have started to believe that the world is mostly made of good people." (AP)

Asia

India eases lockdown even as cases jump in New Delhi

NEW DELHI (AP)—With shopping malls, places of worship, restaurants and state borders reopening Monday, some of the last vestiges of India's 10-week-long coronavirus lockdown disappeared even as the country reported its highest single-day death toll and experts said things would get worse.

In the capital of New Delhi, shoppers applied hand sanitizer and underwent temperature checks before entering Ambience Mall, where a sign read: "Welcome back to the lifestyle you love."

The doors were also reopened at New Delhi's historic Jama mosque. The troughs for washing before prayers had been drained, and the carpet was replaced with floor markings encouraging worshipers to practice social distancing on their own prayer rugs.

Instead of marigold garlands and other temple offerings, staff at Hanuman Mandir, a famous Hindu temple, gave visitors thermal checks and hand sanitizer.

But a committee of experts warned the New Delhi government that such measures would do little to slow the infection rate, and that it

would need to nearly double its hospital bed capacity by the end of June as the number of cases needing treatment is expected to surge.

With cases doubling every two weeks, "we will require 15,000 beds by the end of June," the committee's head, Dr. Mahesh Verma, wrote to the government.

About a quarter of New Delhi's 83 hospitals treating COVID-19 patients were full by Monday afternoon, according to a government-run online dashboard. About half of the city's 512 available ventilators were in use.

The numbers have crossed 28,000 in the capital, stretching limited health resources.

Over the weekend, New Delhi's top official, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, said hospital beds would be limited to city residents, amid rising demand from people in the neighboring corporate hubs of Noida in the state of Uttar Pradesh and Gurugram in Haryana state.

India's lockdown—one of the world's most stringent—was considered mostly effective in staunching the spread of the virus. Most industry shut down, and a stay-at-home order was im-

posed for all but a handful of essential activities.

But in recent weeks, as restrictions have gradually eased to help India's ailing economy and get millions of poor daily wage earners back to work, cases have soared nationwide.

The Health Ministry reported another 9,983 cases Monday, raising India's count past 256,000 to fifth most in the world. It also reported 206 fatalities, the highest single-day rise, bringing the country's death toll to 7,135. Like elsewhere in the world, the actual numbers are thought to be higher for a number of reasons, including limited testing.

There has been a surge in infections in India's vast countryside following the return of hundreds of thousands of migrant workers who left cities and towns after losing their jobs.

Before Monday, India had already partially restored train services and domestic flights and allowed shops and manufacturing to reopen.

Schools, gyms and metro rail services remain closed, political and sports events are banned and international air travel is limited to foreign residents of India repatriating home.

N. Korea says it will cut communication channels with South

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said it will cut off all communication channels with South Korea at noon Tuesday as it escalates its pressure on the South for failing to stop activists from floating anti-Pyongyang leaflets across their tense border.

South Korea's liberal government, which espouses greater ties with North Korea, repeated that it will work toward restoring peace on the Korean Peninsula in its response to the warning.

Relations between the Koreas have been strained during a prolonged deadlock in broader nuclear diplomacy between Pyongyang and Washington. Some experts say North Korea may be deliberately creating tensions to bolster internal unity or launch a bigger provocation in the face of persistent U.S.-led sanctions.

The North's Korean Central News Agency said all cross-border communication lines will be cut off in "the first step of the determination to completely shut down all contact

means with South Korea and get rid of unnecessary things."

It said the decision was made by Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of leader Kim Jong Un, and Kim Yong Chol, a former hard-line military intelligence chief who Seoul believes was behind two 2010 attacks that killed 50 South Koreans.

"The South Korean authorities connived at the hostile acts against (North Korea) by the riff-raff, while trying to dodge heavy responsibility with nasty excuses," KCNA said. "They should be forced to pay dearly for this."

South Korean conservative activists, including North Korean defectors living in the South, for years have floated huge balloons into North Korea that carry leaflets criticizing Kim Jong Un over his nuclear ambitions and abysmal human rights record. The leafleting has long been a source of tensions between the Koreas since the North bristles at any attempt to undermine the Kim leadership.

Last week, Kim Yo Jong called the defectors "human

scum" and "mongrel dogs" as the North also threatened to permanently shut down a liaison office and a jointly run factory park, as well as nullify a 2018 inter-Korean military agreement that had aimed to reduce tensions.

North Korean citizens have also participated recently in a series of mass rallies opposing the Seoul government, activities the North typically organizes in times of tensions with the outside world.

South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles relations with North Korea, said cross-border hotlines must be maintained as they are the basic means of communication between the two Koreas. It said the South Korean government will strive to promote peace while abiding by inter-Korean agreements.

Defense Ministry spokeswoman Choi Hyun-soo told reporters the South Korean military was monitoring the situation but didn't say how the South plans to communicate with the North if there's need to quickly defuse tensions.

World



Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador waves to supporters in Lazaro Cardenas, Quintana Roo state, Mexico, Monday, June 1, 2020. AP

DESPITE INFECTED CONTACT

Mexico president shuns virus test

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Monday he does not plan to get tested for the novel coronavirus, one day after the announcement that a high-ranking member of his administration he'd recently been in contact with was infected.

Zoé Robledo, director of Mexico's social security system, announced Sunday night that he had tested positive, two days after he appeared with López Obrador at an event in the Tabasco state capital of Villahermosa. The president's security cabinet had also been present during that event.

"I'm not going to do the test because I don't have symptoms," López Obrador said Monday. "Fortunately, I'm well and take care of myself, keep a safe distance."

López Obrador returned to the capital Sunday after a weeklong tour of the country's southeast. He used the trip to kick off construction of a tourist train, one of his signature projects, and to illustrate the government's efforts to reactivate the economy.

Some criticized the trip as risky and as sending the wrong message while Mexico's infections continue to peak. López Obrador had initially planned to fly the first leg to Cancun, but ended up driving the entire way.

López Obrador said no one else on the trip had fallen ill, but said he is reconsidering his next scheduled trip the coming week. He also raised the possibility of a videoconference rather than a White House visit when the new free trade agreement with the

United States and Canada takes effect July 1.

López Obrador said the Washington visit wasn't confirmed yet. "It could be done in a videoconference. That possibility exists to not have to travel," he said.

In late April, Mexico's comptroller was infected and in early May, the head of the country's consumer protection office said he had tested positive.

Later Monday, the social security agency said in a statement that three other top administrators had tested positive, but were asymptomatic.

Mexico has now seen over 120,000 confirmed coronavirus cases and 14,053 deaths, and officials acknowledge the real numbers are higher and that Mexico is experiencing its highest level of contagion yet.

World leaders won't gather at UN for first time in 75 years

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The president of the U.N. General Assembly said Monday that world leaders will not be coming to New York for their annual gathering in late September for the first time in the 75-year history of the United Nations because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

But Tijjani Muhammad-Bande told a news conference that he hopes to announce in the next two weeks how the 193 heads of state and government will give their speeches on pressing local and world issues during the assembly's so-called General Debate.

"World leaders cannot come to New York because they cannot come simply as individuals," he said. "A president doesn't travel alone, leaders don't travel alone" and "it is impossible" to bring

large delegations to New York during the pandemic.

"We cannot have them in person as we used to—what happened in the last 74 years—but it will happen" Muhammad-Bande said of the annual event.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres recommended last month that the gathering of world leaders, which was supposed to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, be dramatically scaled back because of the pandemic.

Guterres suggested in a letter to the General Assembly president that heads of state and government deliver prerecorded messages instead, with only one New York-based diplomat from each of the 193 U.N. member nations present in the assembly hall.

Muhammad-Bande said

Monday that by late September "maybe a hundred or so" people might be allowed in the General Assembly chamber.

The meeting of world leaders usually brings thousands of government officials, diplomats and civil society representatives to New York for over a week of speeches, dinners, receptions, one-on-one meetings and hundreds of side events.

This year was expected to bring an especially large number of leaders to U.N. headquarters to celebrate the founding of the United Nations in 1945 on the ashes of World War II.

Muhammad-Bande said the 75th anniversary celebration "is not conceived as one moment" but will continue throughout the year starting on June 26, the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations in San Francisco.

Good Housekeeping



TNS

Tam Davies of New Albany replaced a rotting shed with this lovely pavilion using reclaimed pavers from a patio that was replaced two years ago.

Should you fix that yourself? How to handle home repair during the pandemic

By LILA SEIDMAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—When Tony Nittoli of North Hollywood noticed a leak under his bathroom sink in mid-April, he tied it up with an old T-shirt and stuffed junk mail under it. He'd normally call his apartment manager to take care of it, but health officials' orders were clear: stay inside and away from others to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

"What's the sense of me not going out if I have somebody who's going out to multiple houses coming to my house?" Nittoli said. "That defeats the purpose."

Plumbers, electricians and handymen and -women are considered essential workers during the COVID-19 crisis. They've continued to come to the rescue when a pipe bursts or the electricity goes haywire. It's frequently hazardous work, pandemic notwithstanding.

But what about when it's not life or death, but life and discomfort? If the washing machine won't wash or the screen door won't seamlessly slide, does it make sense to call a professional? Does bringing in a worker — or several — put your safety and theirs at risk? Do you try doing it yourself? Is fixing a sink as easy as bak-

ing bread?

SAFETY FIRST

Although home-repair workers were never ordered to put away their tools, business practices have shifted to meet the moment, according to several industry stakeholders.

Workers are required to wear masks and keep their distance from others inside a home, apartment or commercial space they're working in, just as in other essential businesses, according to public health guidelines. Some companies outfit their workers in additional protective gear, such as gloves and booties.

For Mike Rios, who owns and manages seven rental units in West L.A., the adjustment hasn't been hard.

His go-to handyman "wears a mask and (it's) business as usual," he said.

Talieh Safadi, owner of Help Squad, a repair company with a location in Brentwood, said he typically asks customers to take a walk while work is being done or stay in another room.

Tom Bannon, chief executive of the California Apartments Association, which represents the rental housing interests, agreed that safety protocols are a two-way street.

Repair workers are asked to follow CDC guidelines, "And you hope that that the residents

can do the same," Bannon said.

When should I call a professional? If it's an emergency or serious issue, make the call.

Some repairs simply can't be put off. An untreated electrical shortage could spark a fire. A leaky pipe in one apartment could cause thousands of dollars of water damage in the entire complex. In those situations, it's necessary to bring in a trained professional, ideally before a situation grows dire.

If it's less urgent, weigh the risks.

If you're a family of five and your washing machine breaks, it might not be feasible to transition to a washboard.

If it's not urgent, Safadi recommends people over 65 or with underlying health conditions postpone work for a few weeks. If they need to go forward with a repair, he advises increasing safety precautions.

Apartment owners still have an obligation to make repairs within a reasonable time frame, but Bannon stressed that the pandemic has affected what's reasonable.

Some tenants don't want home-repair workers in their units — and it's difficult from a legal perspective for a landlord to enter a unit against their wishes, Bannon said. On the flip side, some maintenance workers are hesitant to put themselves at unnecessary

risk. The latter makes it trickier to find someone to tackle a job immediately and increases the turnaround time for some repairs, he added.

"It's not a good time for maintenance unless it's a serious issue," Bannon said.

REPAIR NEEDS ARE INCREASING

People in the industry agree that comfort levels around home repair appear to be rising — possibly out of necessity.

According to ServiceTitan, a tech company that develops software for home-services workers, revenue for contractors in California in the first two weeks of May jumped 10% over the same period last year. And the numbers are showing improvement nationally.

Calls never stopped completely for contractor Edward Flanagan, though they did fall significantly after California's stay-at-home order went into place. He estimates that he's getting half as much business as usual now, compared with a quarter as much in mid-March.

Many of the large residential projects Safadi had lined up, including a more than \$100,000 job to convert a garage to a living space, are on hold. But he said he is fielding more quotidian requests, including calls about broken dishwashers, toilets, garbage disposals, doors and faucets. More time at home means

more wear and tear.

"Remember, all of us were home, including me and my wife, on lockdown," Safadi said. "And guess what? There were a lot more issues with maintenance because everybody's home."

SHOULD I TRY TO DO IT MYSELF?

Those concerned about exposure to the virus or who are tight on funds might be considering a DIY approach. Professionals urge caution.

Most plumbing and electrical work, for example, is best left to the professionals.

"One mistake can cause a lot more damage," Safadi said.

"If you don't know how to snake a pipe or a garbage disposal, it might leak overnight," he explained. In a multi-unit complex, that can get expensive: "Because it leaks into the unit below or the unit next door and then it becomes a huge thing."

Besides property damage, "there's potential damage you could do to yourself," Bannon said, pointing to garbage disposals as one source of danger.

But home maintenance falls on a spectrum of difficulty, said Bob Burke, chief executive of Repair Clinic, a company that offers step-by-step repair tutorials.

"What we're seeing is that people have real needs, partly caused by the pandemic, partly because things are breaking

because they're at home, and I think people now are realizing they can do a lot more than they might have thought," Burke said. "People are learning to be creative."

The service is starting to see engagement with a younger audience, particularly in the 22 to 35 age range, according to Peter Krauss, president of the company. Their typical customer had been 45 or older, he said.

Marnie Schayek initially intended to pay a handy friend to build out a closet in her Koreatown apartment. When L.A. issued its safer-at-home order in mid-March, that no longer seemed wise. Instead, she watched videos, conferred with friends, borrowed tools from a neighbor and did it herself over the course of several weeks.

"To be honest, I felt like I was in a Marx Brothers skit at almost every pass with it," she said, adding that it ultimately came together. "It's not exactly perfect, but it totally works for me."

Then there are the basics, like how to flip a breaker on and off, and where the main water shutoff is, things Flanagan said everyone should know. Otherwise, you could be wasting water and electricity, he said.

"I think it's good for people to have more of a knowledge of that going on," he said, "and maybe this will give us a chance for people to do that."



TNS

Carolyn Abood of Dublin said she has been wanting to fix her brick walk for 30 years. The bricks had become misaligned and separated. Extra time at home allowed her to repair the walk by lifting and re-laying the old bricks.

Life & Style

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—As American protesters took to the streets to mourn the death of George Floyd, they found an unexpected ally: K-pop fans.

Floyd died May 25 after a police officer pressed his knee into his neck for several minutes even after he stopped moving. K-pop fans galvanized by police brutality and political disappointments swiftly mobilized, re-purposing their usual platforms and hashtags from boosting their favorite stars to backing the Black Lives Matter movement. They flooded right-wing hashtags and police apps with short video clips and memes of their K-pop stars.

In a tweet Thursday to its 26 million fans, South Korean boy band BTS said it opposes racial discrimination and violence and announced a \$1 million donation to Black Lives Matter. Fans quickly followed suit with the hashtag #MatchAMillion on Twitter, matching the donation after 24 hours according to “One In An ARMY,” a global fundraising team made up of BTS fans.

Even so, political activism isn’t exactly associated with K-pop fans. Over the years, K-pop fans have gained notoriety for overtaking Twitter trends and Instagram feeds. The loose network of fans mobilizes in a heartbeat—usually to promote new songs from their favorite K-pop artists or to put down their critics. That same social media energy is being repurposed to support the Black Lives Mat-

ter movement, and BTS fans, known as ARMY, are at the forefront.

Chloë Gallot, a French university student, said she joined ARMY—Adorable Representative M.C. for Youth—earlier this year when she “fell into the rabbit hole” while searching for a distraction from the coronavirus outbreak and personal troubles. A few days ago, Gallot became one of the ARMY members to respond to the #MatchAMillion hashtag, donating around \$90 to Black Lives Matter.

“They (BTS) are pushing us to use our platforms even more,” Gallot told The Associated Press, adding that BTS fans, including herself, had already started fundraising before BTS’ donation was made public.

K-pop experts say zealous activism is nothing new for the fans.

“Despite the stereotypes about boy band fans, they are known for being politically aware and helping raise money for charitable causes online, especially on Twitter,” said Hyun-su Yim, K-pop reporter at the Korea Herald. “Which is why it took many people by surprise when the fandom spearheaded efforts to drown out racist hashtags,” Yim said, referring to K-pop fandoms clogging up U.S. police apps and flooding racist hashtags like “whitelivesmatter” and “WhiteOutWednesday” with their favorite K-pop memes and fancies, rendering them useless.

Although K-pop has been popular in Asia for decades, the rise of BTS around the



In this Jan. 26, 2020 file photo, K-pop band BTS arrives at the 62nd annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles. The band donated \$1 million to Black Lives Matter campaign. AP

mid-2010s has grown fans in all corners of the world. However, that global expansion has sometimes created

tension within the industry, spurred by multiple factors including language and cultural differences.

Korean artists and labels have been thrust into uncharted territories where they’re forced to take a stance on

social issues, drawing criticism from fans who say some issues are too far-removed from their own backyards.

Bon Appetit’s top editor resigns after offensive photo

NEW YORK (AP)—The editor-in-chief of Bon Appetit, Adam Rapoport, resigned after a photo of him dressed in a stereotypical Puerto Rican costume surfaced on social media.

Staffers at the magazine had criticized him after the photo, of him and his wife, circulated on Twitter. That tweet featured a screenshot of a 2013 Instagram photo by Rapoport’s

wife that depicted the two dressed up in costume. In the screenshot, his wife tagged the photo “boricua,” a reference to Puerto Ricans, and called Rapoport “papi.” He was wearing a large, heavy chain, a do-rag and a baseball cap. His wife’s account is private.

In an Instagram post, Rapoport said he was stepping down as editor “to reflect on the work that I need to do as

a human being.” He said the photo was of an “extremely ill-conceived” Halloween costume 16 years ago. He acknowledged “blind spots” as an editor and said the magazine’s staff and readers deserved better leadership.

Conde Nast, the magazine’s publisher, did not reply to multiple requests for comment.

Furor over the photo unleashed other employee com-

plaints. One staffer, Sohla El-Waylly, claimed on Instagram that she hasn’t been paid for appearing in videos for Bon Appetit’s popular YouTube channel, in contrast to white editors who did likewise. She called for Rapoport’s resignation and for people of color on staff to receive “fair titles, fair salaries, and compensation for video appearances.”

Man keeps granddaughter a secret from his ex-wife

DEAR ABBY: I divorced my wife 20 years ago, leaving behind two daughters. My older girl was 5 when I left, and due to my ex’s lies, I wasn’t able to see them.

When my older daughter turned 18, she contacted me. She confessed that she had been forced to lie in court, and we reconnected. At 19, she came to me pregnant. She asked if I would take her baby and asked that I tell no one, especially her mother. I agreed.

Last year, my daughter died in a car wreck. My granddaughter will turn 4. Should I go against my daughter’s wishes, tell my ex and risk her taking her? Or should I let things remain as they are? My current wife and I are the only people who know.

SECRET IN VIRGINIA

DEAR SECRET: I urge you to discuss this matter with a lawyer because there may be legal ramifications. Your former wife has demonstrated she is the kind of person who would force a child to lie in a custody matter. Having done it once, she’s capable of doing something equally underhanded. I am trying hard to come up with a reason why you should go against your daughter’s wishes and disclose this to your ex, and I cannot think of a single one.

DEAR ABBY: I’m concerned about my daughter. She’s 12 and wants to hang out with a 21-year-old male volunteer from her school. His mother works there, and I’ve known their fam-

ily for a few years, although we’ve never socialized.

Recently, my daughter said she wants to meet him at a park to learn some skateboard moves. She tries to tell me it’s harmless, that he just likes the skateboarding sport, but I am uncomfortable about the age difference and the fact that he works at her school. I don’t know what to do. What’s your advice in this situation?

STUMPED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR STUMPED: Although the young man’s motives may be pure, I do not think your daughter should be meeting him at the park without supervision. Accompany her so you can gauge the situation. Because he is volunteering at her school, you should first check to see if that kind of fraternization is allowed because it may not be, and it could cost him his position.

DEAR ABBY: Am I awful because I don’t sympathize when people put their business on the internet? For example, I read some comments on YouTube, and this woman was talking about how “all men cheat.” I told her maybe it’s just all the men she opens her legs to. My account was suspended for a week because of it.

Another time, a man was talking about how none of his many kids talk to him. I asked what he had done to them that none of them speak to him, and he got mad. Abby, I’m not looking for trouble. I feel that if you can’t take someone not kissing up to

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



you, stop putting your business out there. Am I wrong?
STRAIGHTFORWARD IN THE WEST

DEAR STRAIGHTFORWARD: I think so. When traits were handed out, it appears someone forgot to give you a filter. I agree that some people overshare online and doing it comes with a risk. However, your comments weren’t helpful; in fact, they were cruel. When a bee stings, its prey tries to swat it away, and that’s what’s happening to you. To avoid trouble, curb your impulse to comment, or be prepared to deal with the consequences that are sure to follow.

To order “How to Write Letters for All Occasions,” send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



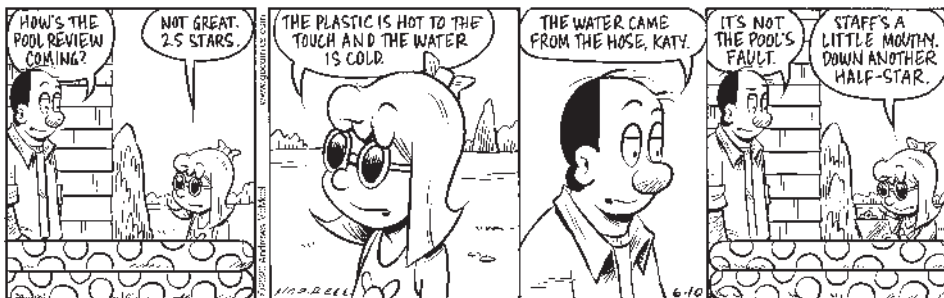
Garfield®

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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

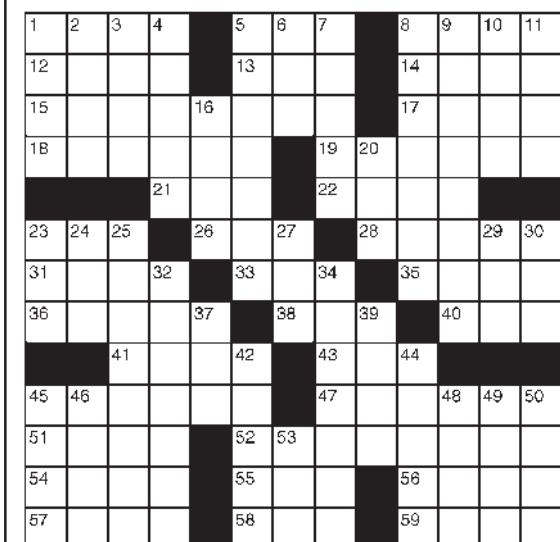
1 Wheels of fortune? **5** Stock holder **8** Exercise in a pool **12** Now, on a memo **13** "Bali —" **14** Top-of-the-line **15** Social service concern **17** "— la Douce" **18** Main dish **19** Made pig sounds **21** New England cape **22** Chris of "The Good Wife" **23** "Humbug!" **26** Carried out **28** "Swell!" **31** Jai — **33** Tic-tac-toe loser **35** Sketch **36** — Gras **38** La-la lead-in **40** Lair

DOWN

1 Lingerie trim **2** "This — outrage!" **3** Sail support **4** Verdi work **5** Capital of Arizona **6** Corn spike **7** Olympus rival **8** Canonized **9** Toil away **10** "By the power vested — ..." **11** Honey drink **16** Travel cars **20** Charged bit **23** "Kapow!" **24** In the style of **25** Stubborn person **27** Speck **29** Menlo Park monogram **30** Have **32** Thinks creatively **34** Paper-folding art **37** Hip-hop record producer **39** Scored 100 on **42** India's first prime minister **44** Rack up, as debt **45** Shirt protectors **46** Beige **48** Scarce **49** Old U.S. gas brand **50** Salty waters **53** Still, in verse

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-10



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kate Upton, 28; Leelee Sobieski, 37; Shane West, 42; DJ Qualls, 42.

Happy Birthday: Timing is everything. Refuse to let uncertainty set in when continuity, precision and decisiveness are required. How you handle situations, your associates and doing what's right will determine what you get in return. You'll have more discipline and understanding when it comes to seeing matters through to the end. Distance yourself from those who waffle or try to manipulate you. Your numbers are 9, 14, 21, 24, 32, 37, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be part of the solution, not the problem. Set guidelines for everyone involved. Take physical action to ensure you practice what you preach. Don't feel you have to go overboard to appeal to the masses. Keep your plan simple. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep your emotions out of the equation when making tough decisions. Don't let a last-minute change of plans disrupt your routine or ability to finish what you start. Practical applications are favored when trying to bring about change. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Pay closer attention to health, diet and exercise. Refuse to associate with people who want you to get involved in excessive behavior or go against rules and regulations. Knowledge is a valuable commodity. Gather firsthand information. Romance is on the rise. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take note of the way others do things, and implement any technique you feel will help you

progress faster. Getting the feel for something that will encourage greater knowledge and experience will lead to an interesting opportunity. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let uncertainty or stubbornness stand in your way. Size up situations, and make a decision. Trust in what and who you know, and do what comes naturally. A partnership will need nurturing, along with minor adjustments. Self-improvement is favored. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Be open about what you want and willing to make compensations to get your way. Finding a way to work with others will make your life easier. Walk away from anyone who isn't willing to give something in return. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Look at the broad scope of whatever situation you face, and pick and choose what works best for you. You can't make decisions for others, but you can follow a path that will lead to a better future. Personal improvement is favored. ★★★★★

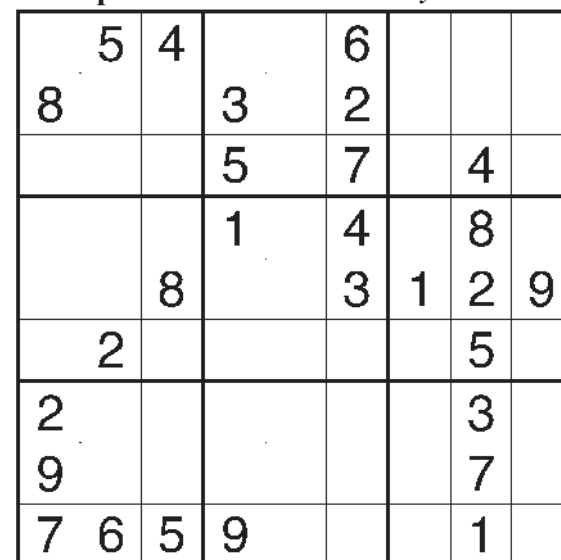
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Troubles will arise if you are dealing with older relatives or domestic problems. Take an intelligent approach, and you will come up with a unique solution that will satisfy everyone's needs. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Question anything that doesn't sound or appear to be accurate. Staying on top of the information you are given and verifying the source and facts will help you avoid making a mistake. A partnership handled properly will change your life. ★★★★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



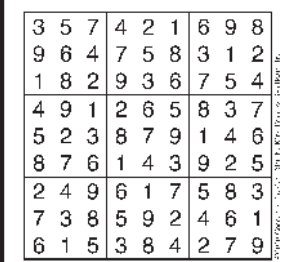
Difficulty Level ★★★

6/10

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look into the past, and call on the experience that will help you make the wisest decision regarding a personal or professional situation that needs to be addressed. Balance, integrity and making the most out of what you've got are favored. ★★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't stop until you excel. Whether it's home or personal improvement you are trying to achieve — or correcting a mistake that could cost you financially — discipline and hard work will promote success. Self-improvement and romance are favored. ★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stick to what you know. If you try to impose your will on someone, you will face opposition. Use knowledge, charm and persuasive tactics to get your way. Avoid making premature alterations to your living arrangements. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are disciplined, patient and inventive. You are clever and persuasive. Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THANKS TO ALL THE NURSES!

Solution: 8 letters

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6/10

Acute, Assisting, Camps, Cardiac, Caregiver, Caring, Clinics, Comforts, Compassionate, Corrective, Cure, Diverse, Emergency, Evaluates, Forensic, Heals, Help, Home, Hospice, Needs, Office, Orthopedic, Patients, Pediatrics, Plans, Protects, Public, Remedy, Safe, Save, Schools, Shift, Ships, Soothes, Surgical, Tends, Tests, Trauma, Wounds
Yesterday's Answer: First Blood
Treasuries 14, 15, 17, 18 and 21 through 39 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Playoffs to start Aug. 16, finals on Sept. 30



NEW YORK—Assuming all goes well with the modified season restart at Disney World in Orlando, Florida, the NBA Finals will be kicking off on Sept. 30.

The National Basketball Players Association held a call on Monday and revealed several dates for the league's plan to resume the season after a nearly-three month hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to The Athletic's Shams Charania.

After the end of the modified regular season that is scheduled to start on July 31, the NBA postseason will tentatively use the following schedule: Aug. 16-17: Play-in tournament; Aug. 18: First round; Sept. 1: Conference semifinals; Sept. 15: Conference finals; Sept. 30: NBA Finals Game 1; Oct. 12: NBA Finals Game 7 (if needed).

The NBA suspended operations on March 11 due to the coronavirus pandemic. The NBPA officially approved the outline of the league's plan to finish the season in Florida last week, just one day after 29 of the 30 teams voted to approve the plan, too.

Only 22 teams are included in the plan, the 16 teams already in playoff position and then the six next closest teams. Teams will play two or three exhibition games before the regular season officially resumes at the Orlando campus, and play is expected to continue even if a player tests positive for the coronavirus. There will be testing daily, per reports, and anyone who tests positive will be quarantined for at least seven days.

The NBA draft is currently scheduled to take place on Oct. 15. An official start date for the 2020-21 season has not yet been approved, however it

is expected to kick off at some point in December.

There were more than 1.9 million confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the United States as of Monday afternoon, according to The New York Times, and more than 110,000 deaths attributed to it. Florida had nearly 65,000 of those cases, though Orange County—where Disney World is located—had less than 2,400 confirmed cases.

Sign players before restart

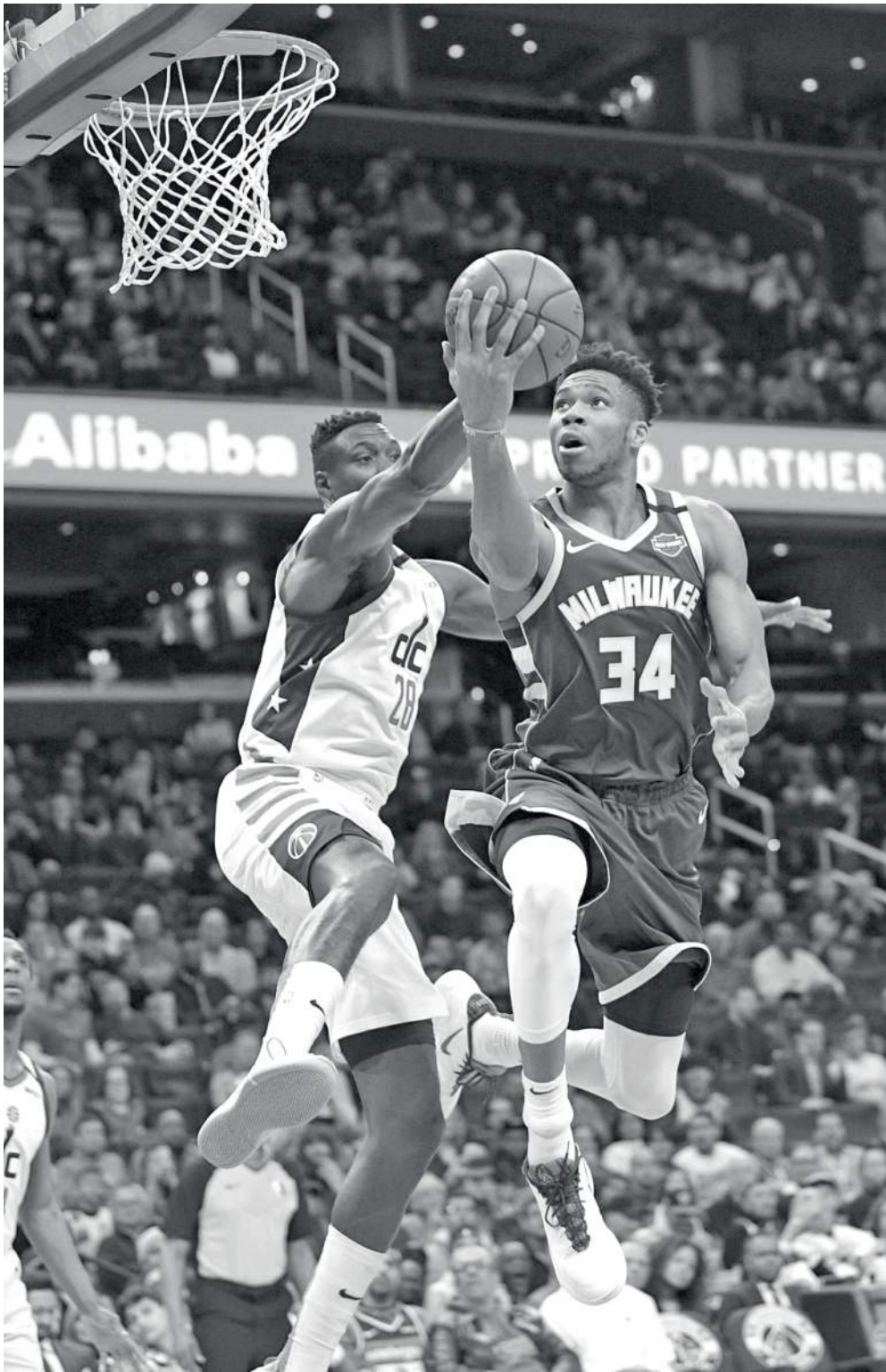
NBA general managers want as much roster flexibility as they can get heading into the restart of the league in Orlando.

They're going to get some—and not just the GMs of the 22 teams headed to Orlando, all 30 teams can make moves in an upcoming "transaction window" according to Adrian Wojnarowski and Bobby Marks of ESPN.

Starting likely June 22 and lasting about a week (the details are not finalized and sent teams) there will be a one week "transaction window" where teams can do things such as: convert two-way players to regular contracts; sign free agents to contracts (Jamal Crawford is the biggest name available); and convert players on 10-day contracts to standard contracts for the remainder of the season (the Clippers signed Joakim Noah to a 10-day just before the shutdown, for example).

Not every team has a roster spot to make a move (for example, Boston is full up), but for teams with players out for the postseason—the Nets with Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving, Dallas with Dwight Powell, Utah with Bojan Bogdanovic—it gives teams a chance to fill out their roster.

Teams still will only be



In this Feb. 24, 2020 file photo, Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) goes to the basket against Washington Wizards center Ian Mahinmi (28) during the first half of an NBA game in Washington.

able to bring 15 players to Orlando, any replacement player brought in later would have to

go through a quarantine period.

During the seeding games, if a player tests positive for

coronavirus and has to be quarantined, or if a player suffers an injury that will have

him out for a considerable time, teams can fill that roster spot from a pool of their two-way players and guys who were on G-League contracts.

10-day quarantine

Front-office and union officials are expecting players who test positive to be quarantined for a minimum of seven days—and possibly 10 to 14—based on several factors, sources said.

Players will be tested for COVID-19 every night in the contained Orlando campus environment, with test results returning the next morning, sources said.

There are legitimate concerns about forcing players to remain contained. But it's hard to see the NBA maintaining adequate safety without such restrictions.

At least the players know what they're getting into. They're getting paid well for playing. This is a case for the continuing players to earn relatively more than the players on the eight finished teams.

Like with many aspects of coronavirus, there are no easy solutions — just hard compromises.

That's even more true to players who contract coronavirus without leaving the bubble. There's far less sympathy for someone who breaks protocol and then must miss 10 days for quarantine.

But stay in the bubble and still test positive? Missing 7-14 days is a tough break.

Yet, alternatives are difficult. Should the NBA delay games just to allow the positive players to recover? Which players should get that treatment? Allowing positive players to play is a non-starter.

At least players will get tested daily. That's an encouraging update. (AP/NBC)

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The Golden State Warriors expect to have a better idea about how Klay Thompson's recovery from reconstructive left knee surgery is going once the team can finally reconvene after the long separation caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

For now, general manager Bob Myers is encouraged Thompson has experienced no setbacks during the extensive rehabilitation process.

"I think we've got to take a look at him when we see him," Myers said Monday on a conference call. "There's different versions of 100%—100% for you or I when we walk around the street is not 100% of an NBA basketball player playing basketball.

Thompson's status unclear until Warriors are back together

So until we kind of test him and see him and he's starting one-on-one and then two-on-two—and obviously the pandemic has not allowed him that opportunity to do those type of things."

Thompson tore the ACL in his left knee on June 13 during Game 6 of the NBA Finals against the Toronto Raptors and had surgery July 2. He was reevaluated over the All-Star break and the team determined around that time that Stephen Curry's Splash Brother wouldn't play at all this season without the team being in the mix for the playoffs following five straight trips to the NBA Finals.

The Warriors finished 15-

50 for the NBA's worst record with Thompson out and with Curry nursing a broken left hand for most of the season. Two-time NBA Finals MVP Kevin Durant departed in free agency to join the Brooklyn Nets.

As eager as everyone is to see Thompson back to his dominant All-Star self, that will come in due time.

"There's no rush, clearly. As far as I've heard he's recovering fine, there hasn't been a setback, but one thing that's been a little bit difficult in the last couple months is our ability to oversee those things as much as you might normally," Myers said. "So I imagine at some point when we collectively get together

I can also answer that better."

"I think what people really want to know is has he been playing and what's he looks like and that's really the answer to 100% and we won't know that until we kind of reach that point in time.

Aldridge out for season

Seven-time All-Star LaMarcus Aldridge will miss the remainder of San Antonio's season while he recovers from surgery on his right shoulder, a major blow to the Spurs' postseason chances, assuming the season continues as planned.

The Spurs announced Monday that Aldridge had the sur-

gery on April 24, stemming from an injury he suffered in a game at Utah on Feb. 21.

San Antonio is one of the 22 teams will that report to the ESPN Wide World of Sports complex at the Disney campus near Orlando, Florida, starting next month, when the NBA plans to resume its season. The Spurs have been to the playoffs in 22 consecutive seasons, matching the longest streak in NBA history.

When play resumes, the Spurs will be among four teams—the others being Portland, New Orleans and Sacramento—that are all separated by a half-game in the race for ninth place in the Western Conference and potentially a

berth in a play-in series. The gap between those four teams is .010 percentage points.

Aldridge played in two more games after getting hurt, including one on March 10, when he scored 24 points in the Spurs' win over Dallas. The NBA suspended its season the following day because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Aldridge turns 35 next month. He finished this season averaging 18.9 points and 7.4 rebounds per game.

The Spurs said Aldridge is expected to be fully cleared for all basketball activities in time for training camp ahead of next season. Based on the NBA's current schedule plans, training camps for 2020-21 are likely to begin in November.

MLB proposes up to 16 teams advancing in playoffs



NEW YORK
(AP)—Maybe this might get

Mike Trout back into the playoffs.

Major League Baseball is tossing around plenty of ideas these days to start up after the coronavirus pandemic—DHs in the National League, neutral-site games, personal rosin bags for pitchers.

Now comes a proposal certain to truly upend the sport: Up to 16 playoff teams.

More than half of the 30 clubs advance. No need to finish over .500, probably. This skewed season, heck, 35 wins could be enough to play into October.

What's next, the Winnipeg Jets in the World Series?

OK, we've heard this before, that an extra wild-card team or two represents the NHL-ization of baseball. But to some, an expansion from 10 playoff clubs to 16 would mean the end of civilization.

Longtime manager Jim Riggleman chuckled at that notion.

"I think that whatever they come up with this year to play, anything goes. That's fine," he said. "But moving forward into next year, I wouldn't be in favor of that many teams making the playoffs. I don't think many players would be, either."

"To say that 16 of 30 teams are playoff teams," he said, "you've got to raise the bar higher than that."

Other sports are accustomed to a plethora of postseason hopefuls.

LeBron James and NBA teams have been putting 16 of 30 into the playoffs. Alex Ovechkin and the NHL clubs welcome 16 of 31. Patrick Mahomes and NFL squads will bump up from 12 to 14 of 32 this season.

For Aaron Judge, Clayton Kershaw, Juan Soto and others on elite teams, an expanded playoff field and extra games might make it tougher to bring home the trophy. In its offer to players Monday, MLB didn't specify how a playoff format would work with as many as eight teams in each league for this year and 2021.

For Josh Bell, Joey Votto, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and more whose clubs often are way behind, this could be an opportunity. Get off to a surprising 15-6 start in a dramatically shortened season, there's a chance.

No doubt, a lot of Trout fans wouldn't mind that. The three-time AL MVP and eight-time All-Star has never won a playoff game in his career—he made it that far only once, when his Angels were swept by Kansas City in the 2014 Division Series.

Would this definitely lead to



In this April 17, 2019 file photo, Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout (27) scores in front of Texas Rangers catcher Isiah Kiner-Falefa on a hit by Angels short-stop Andrelton Simmons during the third inning of a baseball game in Arlington, Texas.

expanded to 10.

To Riggleman, who managed San Diego, the Cubs, Seattle and Washington, it's already gone far enough.

"When wild cards first started, I wasn't sure that I would like it, but I did," he said. "But I didn't like having more than one wild card in each league. It was like you played all year, you won the wild card, and now we lose one game and we're out?"

"Beyond this season, talking about 16, I wouldn't have that many teams in the playoffs," he said. "You can water it down too much."

76-game season

MLB has made another try to start the coronavirus-delayed season in early July, proposing a 76-game regular season and allowing players to earn about 75% of their prorated salaries.

Players have refused cuts beyond what they agreed to in March shortly after the pandemic began, part of baseball's again acrimonious labor relations. The arduous negotiations have jeopardized plans to hold opening day around the Fourth of July in empty ballparks and provide entertainment to a public still emerging from months of quarantine.

MLB's latest proposal would guarantee 50% of players' prorated salaries over the regular season, according to details obtained by The Associated Press.

The proposal would eliminate all free-agent compensation for the first time since the free-agent era started in 1976. It also would forgive 20% of the \$170 million in salaries already advanced to players during April and May.

"If the players desire to accept this proposal, we need to reach an agreement by Wednesday," Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem wrote in a letter to union negotiator Bruce Meyer that was obtained by The Associated Press. "While we understand that it is a relatively short time frame, we cannot waste any additional days if we are to have sufficient time for players to travel to spring training, conduct COVID-19 testing and education, conduct a spring training of an appropriate length, and schedule a 76-game season that ends no later than Sept. 27."

subpar clubs in the playoffs?

Put it this way: If eight teams had qualified for the playoffs in each league from 1995 (when wild cards started) through 2019, a total of 46 MLB clubs at or below .500 would have made it, the Elias Sports Bureau said. That'd average out to just under two per season.

Only once has a baseball team reached the playoffs with

a losing record. George Brett, Willie Wilson and the 1981 Royals went 50-53 overall, but made the postseason because of a 30-23 mark in the second half of a strike-split season.

Veteran skipper Bobby Valentine is OK with extra playoff teams—with a caveat.

"The more the better this year," he wrote in an email to The Associated Press, "but

they should have copied the Japanese league."

Valentine, who managed in Japan, pointed out the early playoff rounds there are hugely tilted. As in, those matchups automatically start at 1-0.

"The winner of the division gets a win in each round in advance. So there is real incentive to play every game hard," he said. "If it is best-of-three,

winner as to win one game. Wild card and other teams need to win two."

For much of big league baseball, only the AL and NL pennant winners got to advance. The postseason field became four in 1969 when division play began, then doubled to eight with wild cards in 1995. In 2012, extra wild cards boosted the playoff field

USWNT wants soccer federation to repeal anthem policy

CHICAGO (AP)—THE U.S. women's national team wants the U.S. Soccer Federation to repeal the anthem policy it instituted after Megan Rapinoe started kneeling during the "The Star-Spangled Banner."

The U.S. women's team also wants the federation to state publicly that the policy was wrong and issue an apology to the team's black players and supporters.

"Further, we believe the Federation should lay out its plans on how it will now support the message and movement that it tried to silence four years ago," the U.S. women's team said in a statement posted on the Twitter feed of its players association Monday night.

Rapinoe took a knee during the anthem at a pair of national team matches in 2016. She said she wanted to express solidarity with San Francisco

49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who silently took a knee during the national anthem before NFL games to raise awareness of police brutality and racial injustice.

The U.S. Soccer Federation then approved a policy in February 2017 that stated players "shall stand respectfully" during national anthems. The policy remains in place, though the unions for the men's and women's teams believe it doesn't apply to their players because of their collective bargaining agreements.

Kaepernick and Rapinoe each faced sharp criticism for the protest for years. But public sentiment has changed since George Floyd's death last month.

Floyd, a black man, died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck while Floyd was handcuffed and say-

ing that he couldn't breathe. His death sparked protests in Minneapolis and around the country, some of which became violent.

A lawyer for the men's team union also called for the repeal of the policy and an apology in a statement provided to BuzzFeed News, which was the first to report on the U.S. women's statement.

Meanwhile, when the National Women's Soccer League was plotting its course for a summertime tournament, it reached out to a select group: moms.

There are just a handful of mothers who play in the NWSL. But with the league asking players to travel to Utah and be sequestered for more than a month, moms' voices are important.

Take North Carolina Courage forward Jessica McDonald, whose son Jeremiah is

8. She spoke up when new league Commissioner Lisa Baird got the moms on a call to discuss the tournament.

"I'm raising my hand immediately and, I'm like, 'Well, first and foremost, I can't live in a hotel for a month with an 8-year-old!' No thank you," McDonald said, laughing. "He bounces off walls."

The moms made sure that caretakers for their kids would be allowed to come along. McDonald, who will have a family member with her, said she was glad the league took the time to address her concerns and those of other parents.

"They answered, or if they didn't have the answer to some of the questions, they were able to get back to us immediately. So that was kind of cool," McDonald said. "They handled it really well and they've been just very helpful overall with this entire process."



NFL sets procedures for reopening facilities



NEW YORK (A P) — The NFL and the players' union sent a planner to the 32 teams

Monday outlining procedures for the full reopening of their practice facilities, which were closed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

In a lengthy four-part memo to the clubs written by Commissioner Roger Goodell and approved by the NFL Players Association, the league described protocols focusing on screening, testing, and infection prevention and treatment for COVID-19, including response for new infections. Also included were instructions on proper facility access, cleaning and disinfecting; physical distancing; hygiene, health education and medical services; food preparation; supplies; and team travel.

No timetable has been set for the return of most players to team complexes—only players rehabilitating injuries have been allowed to enter the buildings. But this is the next major step toward allowing all players back in club facilities.

Goodell ordered all facili-

ties closed in late March, and the league has taken small steps toward reopening them. Last week, coaching staffs were approved to return, but only if local governmental rules allowed it.

Goodell noted that the protocols for a full return were developed in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Duke's Infection Control Network and other universities.

"No set of protocols can eliminate the risk of contracting COVID-19, nor ensure that the disease itself will be mild," Goodell wrote in the memo, which was obtained by The Associated Press. "And we should expect that these protocols will change as medical and scientific knowledge of the disease continues to grow. But we believe, along with the NFLPA, that these protocols offer a sound basis for bringing players back into the facilities and moving forward with our planning for the 2020 season."

Training camps are scheduled to begin in late July, with the first preseason game, Dallas vs. Pittsburgh in the Hall of Fame game, on Aug. 6. The



In this Jan. 30, 2020 file photo, Kansas City Chiefs offensive guard Ryan Hunter (60) runs drills with offensive guards Nick Allegretti (73) and Stefen Wisniewski (61) during practice in Davie, Fla., for the NFL Super Bowl 54.

NFL still plans to kick off the regular season in Kansas City on Sept. 10.

A tiered approach will be used within team facilities and must be presented to the league for approval at least seven days before the reporting date for training camp. Players, most coaches, trainers, physicians and the head equipment manager -- anyone who must have direct access to players—will be in Tier 1, with a maximum of 60 in ad-

dition to the players. They will have access to such restricted areas as fields and sidelines, locker rooms, training rooms, medical exam areas, meeting rooms and weight rooms.

Kaepernick for Pats workout?

NBC Sports Boston's Phil Perry and Gary Tanguay talked about the prospect of the Patriots bringing in Kaepernick for a workout.

"Should they consider it? Sure, why not?" Perry said. "I

would be a hypocrite to say the Patriots should bring in this player or that player on Day 3 of the draft as an undrafted free agent because that guy may have upside or may have a little bit of depth to a position that really only includes two pros right now in Jarrett Stidham and Brian Hoyer. So I would say sure, why not?"

"He has been out of the league for over three years. His last game was in January of 2017. So I would say bring him in, work him out, put him through a real

workout and see if he can still come close to the physical ability that we saw from him the last time he was on the field because I think he would be worth it football-wise."

Tanguay agreed, mentioning Kaepernick's past success as a signal-caller in San Francisco.

"One thing we know about Colin Kaepernick is that the guy has been successful," said Tanguay. "He can play the game. We've seen it. Unfortunately, recent history tells us he struggled. So with Bill Belichick, could a career be reborn? I'm willing to ask, I'm willing to find out. I think it's a no-brainer."

In his last season, Kaepernick tallied 2,241 passing yards for 16 touchdowns and four interceptions in 12 games played. He also had 468 rushing yards and 2 TDs on the ground.

PLAYERS

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Guerrero said.

The Pacific Games participant noted that some schools have badminton equipment, but they can't play outdoors because of the wind. With AirShuttle, which is made with an increased durability, stability, and wind resistance, that won't be a challenge anymore.

Overall, Guerrero is opti-

mistic that AirBadminton will gain popularity here.

"It's supposed to work well with our weather. The shuttle is supposedly heavier in the head and plastic for the body. It being heavier, your racket needs to be adjusted to lower tension so the shuttle doesn't snap your string," he said.

Guerrero added that after attending the Pacific Games in Samoa, he learned that BWF will be working on hav-

ing AirBadminton as another Olympic sport. United Arab Emirates (Dubai), China, Singapore, and other Asian countries have started holding AirBadminton tournaments.

BWF, through its president and Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games men's singles gold medalist Poul-Erik Hoyer, said during the launch of AirBadminton in China that the outdoor sport can also be played by people with disabilities.



CPNTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this file photo, the CNMI's Janelle Pangilinan gets ready near the net, while partner Andrew Galvez, left, stays back and team captain Nate Guerrero, right, looks on during their game against Samoa in last year's Pacific Games in Apia.

FLASHBACK

From Page 20

Regional Championships.

Pitcher Delbert Sablan towed Saipan to the easy victory after throwing a no-no and striking out 15 batters. Sablan was so awesome on the mound that he forced Rota to 1-2-3 in the first, second, and fourth inning to end the one-sided finale after only five and a half innings.

On offense, Saipan scored all its eight runs at the bottom of the fifth inning. Joseph Ada and Eli Ray Castro gave Saipan its first two runs as they reached off Rota's errors, while the six other runs came from Keoni Serrano's two-RBI single, Kaipō Dikito's RBI single, and Castro's RBI double off his second at-bat.

Saipan was so dominant at the top of the fifth inning that it took Rota about 15 minutes to wrap up just that frame. In contrast, Sablan finished off Rota quickly at the top of the sixth inning, as he fanned out leadoff Landen Atalig and third batter Lucas Manglona. Second batter Tyric Castro grounded out at first for the second out.

The title win over Rota was Saipan's third victory in the district meet as it also topped the visiting squad in their earlier game, 7-2. The hosts earlier prevailed over Tinian, 12-2, while Rota downed the latter, 13-3, to take the second



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this 2017 file photo, some members of the CNMI Little League All-Star Team pose for a photo during the opening ceremony for the Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament at the HwaSeong Dream Park in Seoul, South Korea.

finals seat.

However, Rota failed to get back at the Saipan Major All-Star Team, which then was named as the CNMI All-Stars and played in the 2017 Asia Pacific Regional Championships held at the HwaSeong Dream

Park in Seoul, South Korea.

In the ASPAC, which serves as the World Series qualifier, the CNMI lost to Thailand and Hong Kong before beating Saudi Arabia. The squad then dropped its last match in the pool after bowing to Guam.



Playoffs to
start Aug.
16, finals on
Sept. 30

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Saipan Tribune Sports

MLB proposes
up to 16 teams
advancing in
playoffs

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Players welcome AirBadminton



Players in China play AirBadminton at a sand court.

BADMINTON WORLD FEDERATION

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imagine playing badminton at the sand court with one of Saipan's beautiful beaches as your backdrop.

The picture perfect scenario will be made possible in the near future as Northern Marianas Badminton Association is considering introducing AirBadminton in the CNMI.

Flashback: Saipan routs Rota in ASPAC qualifier

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three years ago today, the Saipan Major All-Star Team proved to be too much for Rota as the hosts coasted to

an 8-0 victory in their title game in the 2017 CNMI District Tournament at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The win earned the Saipan



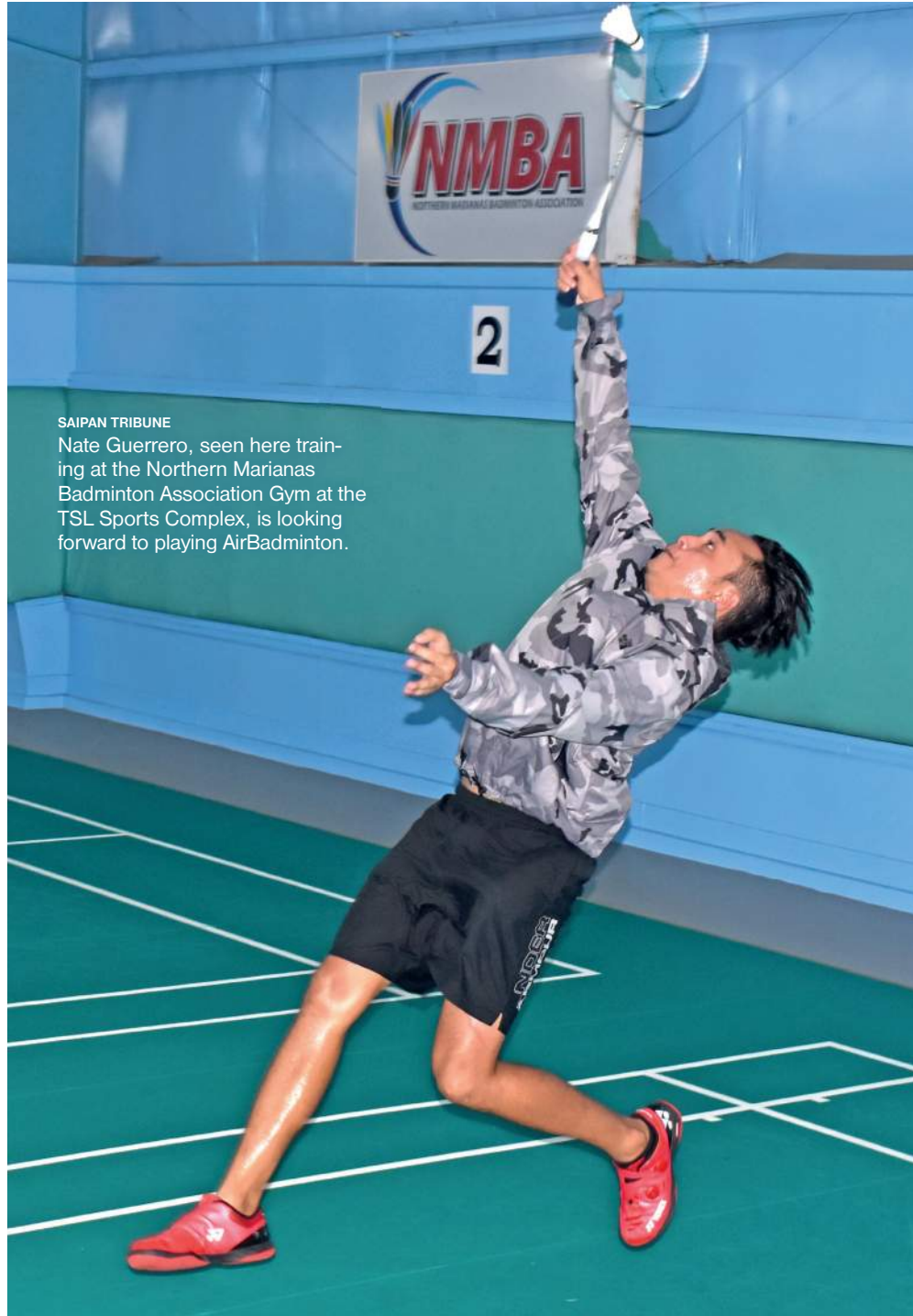
Major All-Stars the right to represent the Commonwealth to the 2017 Asia Pacific

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In this file photo, a Saipan Major All-Star Team runner gets ready to step home, while a Rota player goes for a catch during their title match in the 2017 CNMI District Tournament at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Nate Guerrero, seen here training at the Northern Marianas Badminton Association Gym at the TSL Sports Complex, is looking forward to playing AirBadminton.

Launched by Badminton World Federation and HSBC last year, AirBadminton brings the sport to an outdoor setting, giving more people the opportunity to play it in more places. With the use of a modified shuttlecock called AirShuttle, AirBadminton can be played in hard, grass, and sand surfaces in parks, gardens, streets, playgrounds, and beaches. While a regular badminton has singles and doubles, AirBadminton is played with three players (one female and two males) on each team.

NMBA president Merlie Tolentino said AirBadminton suits well for the CNMI with the islands surrounded by beaches and a lot of open spaces can be utilized to serve as venues for the games. She

added that NMBA now has equipment for AirBadminton and they are looking at introducing the new outdoor game to the community.

Janelle Pangilinan, who represented the CNMI to the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia Samoa, is excited with the prospects of playing badminton outdoor.

"I am excited to try it. I even tried ordering AirShuttle, but due to limited international shipping (due to the COVID-19) it's hard to get one right now. With AirBadminton, badminton can be played anywhere and wind won't be much of a problem," Pangilinan said.

BWF is working with sports equipment manufacturers to

mass produce and eventually develop an AirShuttle that can withstand winds up to 12 kilometer per hour.

"AirShuttle is way heavier than a regular nylon shuttlecock. I hope that in the future outdoor badminton can be an official sport in the CNMI," Pangilinan added.

Nate Guerrero, another athlete that saw action in last year's Pacific Games, sees AirBadminton as an opportunity to grow the sports in the Commonwealth, specifically among students.

"I believe this will help schools here in the CNMI in regards to launching and incorporating badminton into their physical education,"

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